



Arizona Department of Education School Safety Program

School Safety Program FY2020 Grant Background

Earlier this year, the Arizona Legislature passed a bill that expanded the state's School Safety Program. The existing \$12 million program provides grantees funding for Arizona Department of Education (ADE) trained school resource officers and juvenile probation officers. The program runs in 3-year funding cycles and is currently in Year 3 of this 3-year cycle. The expansion added \$20 million to the original \$12 million, creating a new \$32 million program. The expansion also added school counselors and school social workers to the list of eligible positions.

In August, the Arizona State Board of Education directed ADE to open an application allowing all schools to apply to be part of the newly expanded \$32 million program. Existing grantees receiving funds for a school resource officer were also asked to re-apply to either keep their existing position, or switch to one of the newly eligible positions. Schools were invited to apply for any combination of resources, and rank order their choices. School districts or charter organizations submitted applications on behalf of each school site.

After the application window closed, ADE received requests for 473 counselors, 396 social workers, and 302 school resource officers. The total amount needed to fund all requests is more than \$97 million. Because of the large disparity between available funds and requested funds, ADE only considered the first-choice request on each application.

First choice requests were as follows: **267 school resource officers, 279 social workers, and 337 school counselors.** The total amount needed to fund all first-choice positions is **\$73.8 million.**

Because the amount needed to fund all first-choice applications still exceeded the available grant funds, ADE employed a tiered scoring rubric using school-level student population data to assign points to each application. District level data was used if a school district was applying to use a resource across school sites.

To honor requests as submitted, ADE projected that available dollars can fund **148 school counselors, 118 social workers, and 116 school resource officers.** In order to narrow down the first-choice requests to the number of available positions, ADE identified cut scores and ranked each application.

Existing grantees that are not continuing on the program after the current 3-year cycle ends in June 2020 will continue to be funded through the end of this fiscal year. Existing grantees that are continuing on the program – with no change in their position – will continue to receive funding for their school resource officer for the new grant cycle. New grantees will receive access to funds when they have a contract in place and will have until August 2020 to fill their new position. Existing grantees receiving funds for a school resource officer that have opted to switch to a counselor or social worker will continue to receive their SRO funds through the end of FY2020 and will then receive funds for their updated position choice beginning in FY2021.

Kathy Hoffman, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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Key Figures

First Choice Requests:

- School Counselors: 337 (38%)
- Social Workers: 279 (32%)
- School Resource Officers: 267 (30%)

Total: 883

Funds Requested for First Choice Positions:

- School Counselors: \$22.6 million (31%)
- Social Workers: \$19.6 million (26%)
- School Resource Officers: \$31.6 million (43%)

Total: \$73.8 million

Available Positions:

- School Counselors: 148 (38%)
- Social Workers: 118 (31%)
- School Resource Officers: 116 (31%)

Total: 382

Available Funds by Position:

- School Counselors: \$9.9 million (31%)
 - Average Annual Cost: \$70k
- Social Workers: \$8.3 million (26%)
 - Average Annual Cost: \$67k
- School Resource Officers: \$13.7 million (43%)
 - Average Annual Cost: \$117k

Total Funds Available: \$32 million

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