



REVISED – November 17, 2021 - See new Questions #40 and #41 which were submitted to DCJS on time but inadvertently left off the Questions and Answers document originally posted on November 10, 2021

SFY 2021-22 Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes (SCAHC) Request For Proposals – Questions and Answers - Posted on or about November 10, 2021

The following questions were sent via email to DCJS through Wednesday, November 3, 2021. Some language has been edited for grammar, clarity and to consolidate similar questions.

Question #1: We would like to apply for the Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes (SCAHC) Grant. We have six (6) separate facilities in six (6) different locations. If we were approved in 2017 for three (3) grants in three (3) different locations, can we still apply for same location but different buildings at those locations?

Answer #1: Applications will be accepted for up to \$50,000 **per facility**. Each eligible organization may submit up to three (3) applications for a maximum total of \$150,000. **Each facility will require a separate application.** For purposes of this grant program, a facility is defined as a building, including recreational areas adjacent to the building. A facility that has previously received funding through a Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) SCAHC award is not eligible for funding under this RFP, although an organization may apply for grants for up to three (3) other facilities regardless of the location(s) of the facility. Applicants cannot apply for funding for a facility which received prior SCAHC funding, but can apply for funding at a different facility at a location where funding was previously awarded. See Section II. A in the RFP for additional information.

Question #2: How do we receive/*submit* applications?

Answer #2: The application must be completed within the DCJS Grants Management System (GMS). All of the relevant directions for completing the application are contained within the RFP. Applicants must complete all GMS tabs requested in the RFP (Participant, Budget, Workplan, and Questions Tabs.) Applicants must first be pre-qualified in Grants Gateway (See RFP Appendix:Grants Gateway Prequalification Process,) and be registered in the DCJS Grants Management System (GMS). The GMS manual is located in Appendix: DCJS Grants Management System (GMS) Instructions and Helpful Hints.

Question #3: Are Domestic Violence shelters eligible to apply for the purpose of protecting our domestic violence victims from their perpetrator?

Answer #3: Funding is available to nonprofit organizations at risk of a hate crime due to the organization's ideology, beliefs, or mission as described by the applicant organization. As part of the application process, applicants must complete the Vulnerability Self-Assessment and describe the organization's risk of hate crime victimization. Responses to the Vulnerability Self-Assessment and the organization's description of their risk of hate crime victimization will be evaluated to determine the applicant's eligibility.



Question #4: If an organization is located on a campus with several buildings, can that organization apply for multiple facilities on that campus?

Answer #4: Yes. As described in the RFP, a facility is defined as a building and any adjacent recreational areas. Applicants can apply for up to three separate facilities that did not previously receive funding, regardless of the location of the facilities.

Question #5: If a facility received SCAHC funding through a different nonprofit organization, can a new occupant (new nonprofit organization) request funding in this round?

Answer #5: A new nonprofit may request funding for a different facility, but not for a facility which previously received an SCAHC grant.

Question #6: Can a nonprofit apply in more than one county if we have facilities across the state?

Answer #6: Organizations can apply for grant funding for up to three facilities, regardless of whether the facilities are at the same or different locations, as long as each of the facilities did not receive prior SCAHC funding.

Question #7: Are there designated funding amounts set up for different counties/areas across the State, or will all applications be scored in one pool? For example, if an applicant receives a score of 5 out of 10 on question #10 due to location, will the applicant be competing against organizations that would receive an automatic 10 points on this question? Is there any difference if my organization has been targeted by hate in the past?

Answer #7: There are no designated funding amounts for different counties or regions; each application will be evaluated individually as described in the RFP. Although a history of hate crimes toward an organization might help demonstrate the organization's overall eligibility for funding, the evaluation of risk and vulnerability is based on the individual facility rather than the organization as a whole.

Question #8: If our organization received funding for SFY 2019-20, can we apply for the outside of our facility (e.g. we want to install more security measures in the yard)?

Answer #8: No. The adjacent yard would be considered part of the facility. If the organization received prior funding for that facility, it would not be eligible to apply for funding for that same facility under this solicitation.

Question #9: If an organization has already received a Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) SCAHC grant for their facility, and cannot apply again for this grant for that building, can the organization apply for a grant under this opportunity for a different building?

Answer #9: Yes. An organization that received a DHSES SCAHC grant for their facility can apply for this grant opportunity only if the funding being sought is for a project at a different facility.



Question #10: What if an organization received a DHSES *Federal NSGP* (non-profit security grant program) grant for that same building, but not a DHSES SCAHC grant for that building, can they still apply for this new SCAHC grant opportunity?

Answer #10: An organization can apply for grant funds for a facility that has **not** previously been supported with a DHSES SCAHC grant or for a project at the same facility that has already been reimbursed through any other grant program.

Question #11: Our organization applied for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) security grant but did not receive it. Is the organization eligible to apply for this SCAHC grant?

Answer #11: Yes, if the organization meets the other eligibility requirements and the proposed project has not already received reimbursement/funding from another grant program, the organization is eligible to apply for this grant opportunity.

Question #12: Our campus has three separate buildings with recreational fields at the same street address, and only one building received prior SCAHC funding through the DHSES. Do the other 2 buildings qualify for this year's SCAHC grant?

Answer #12: Yes, each building and its surrounding grounds area would be considered a separate facility, so the remaining buildings would be eligible. However, if prior SCAHC funds were used to support improvements to the remaining buildings, they would not be eligible.

Question #13: If I submit an application for SCAHC and use the streamlined grants gateway prequalification option, will I need to do the traditional prequalification on Grants Gateway's portal upon award?

Answer #13: No, organizations that complete the Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes (SCAHC) Prequalification are eligible to apply for and receive awards under this solicitation without completing the traditional prequalification process.

Question #14: If our organization got approved for a grant under the SFY 2019-20 SCAHC solicitation, are we eligible to apply for this opportunity?

Answer #14: The organization is eligible to apply for this opportunity if the funding is to be used to support a project at a **different facility** as defined in this RFP. Organizations cannot apply for funding to support projects at a facility for which they have been awarded prior SCAHC funding.

Question #15: Are towns (municipalities) eligible to apply for this grant?

Answer #15: No, only non-profit organizations that qualify for tax exempt status pursuant to 26 USC §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, are eligible to apply for this opportunity. Municipalities are not eligible.

Question #16: Our nonprofit organization already received SCAHC funds in the past for our community center building. Therefore, we are aware that we cannot apply for a grant for the community center. However, can we apply for funds for another space that we are renting for an expansion of our preschool program? This space is rented.

Answer #16: Yes, if the preschool program space is in a separate building, it would be considered a separate facility and would be eligible for funding. As described in the RFP, applicants are exclusively



responsible for ensuring compliance with the lease agreement and any associated requirements when

proposing work on leased/rented property.

Question #17: An organization that leases building space on our campus received a grant through this program a few years ago. Are we still eligible to apply for this program as a different organization and for a different area on the same campus?

Answer #17: The organization is eligible to apply for this opportunity provided that the funds are to be used for a *different facility* on the campus as defined in the RFP. The organization would not be eligible to apply for funds for the same facility or grounds for which funds were previously awarded.

Question #18: If an organization received a previous SCAHC grant for an entire campus, can that same organization now apply for security improvements for specific buildings within that same campus? For example, if the organization previously applied for fencing and cameras around the campus, can they now apply for additional security improvements on specific building(s) within that same campus?

Answer #18: The organization may apply for buildings whose adjacent grounds were not included in the previous security improvements.

Question #19: The RFP says that if you have received the SCAHC grant before for your facility you are not eligible to apply and receive it again. Is that correct?

Answer #19: Yes, that is correct. Organizations that received a previous SCAHC grant are **not** eligible to apply for funding through this opportunity for the same facility. However, the organization may be eligible to apply for funding for a different facility. See RFP Section II.A. for additional information.

Question #20: We have to submit the Vulnerability Self-Assessment document. Do we also need to submit a professional Threat Vulnerability Assessment that is written by either the police department or a private security consultant?

Answer #20: No, only the Vulnerability Self-Assessment Tool is required in order to apply to this RFP.

Question #21: While reading over the RFP it talks about what projects are allowed. It sounds like if we received money from a previous SCAHC grant for any building we can not apply for money for a different project for the same building. I wanted to confirm I am reading this correctly.

Answer #21: That is correct. If your organization received previous SCAHC funding for a project on a particular facility/building, you are not eligible to apply for a different project on the same facility/building. Your organization would be eligible to apply for a project on a different facility/building.

Question #22: Is a DUNS number required at the time of application submission?

Answer #22: Yes, all applicants are required to provide a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number.

Question #23: Is a Sexual Harassment Prevention Certification required to be submitted by the nonprofit at the time of application on GMS, in addition to other required documents?

Answer #23: Yes, a completed Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Certification is required at the time of application and should be included as an attachment in the DCJS Grants Management System (GMS).



Question #24: Is the Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire required before or after the grant application is submitted on GMS?

Answer #24: The Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire is only required for nonprofits receiving an award of over \$100,000. This would be required after an award is issued and as part of the contract development process. It is not needed at the time of application. Please note: Applications will be accepted for up to \$50,000 **per facility**. Each eligible organization may submit up to three (3) applications for a maximum total of \$150,000. A Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire will be required if the same organization receives two or more awards totalling \$100,000 or more.

Question #25: Is exterior door hardening/locking mechanisms an allowable expense? The RFP specifies interior door hardening.

Answer #25: Yes, door hardening/locking mechanisms for both interior and exterior doors are allowable expenses.

Question #26: If a nonprofit has an existing building that was awarded funding, can the nonprofit now apply for a new facility that was added to the first as an extension? They are two different buildings; however, there is one section where both facilities connect.

Answer #26: If the addition is a different building, the nonprofit can apply for funding for a project on the new facility. However, the organization is not eligible to apply for funds to be used on the existing, previously funded building.

Question # 27: Are students able to participate in security training, or is it only an allowable expense for organization staff?

Answer #27: Allowable training costs include training on physical security or to advance the knowledge of security personnel and/or staff or membership about hate crime activity, suspicious behavior, emergency evacuation procedures, and similar topics that will secure the organization. In this case, students would be considered organization membership, so eligible training that includes students would be an allowable expense.

Question # 28: For Question 10, are we required to write anything or can we leave that answer blank?

Answer #28: Although no information is required for Question 10 in GMS, the Grants Management System (GMS) will require an entry before allowing the application to be submitted. If so, please enter "NA". See RFP Appendix: DCJS Grants Management System (GMS) Instructions and Helpful Hints for additional instruction.

Question #29: Would the following types of equipment be allowable under the new grant?

- a. License Plate Reader (LPR) cameras
- b. Construction of guard "shacks" to house security guards at entrances to the property
- c. Door locking mechanisms (possibly electronic) to secure various doors, including double doors with crash bars



Answer #29

- a. Any security/facility hardening equipment not specifically listed as non-permissible costs in the RFP is potentially allowable and would have to be evaluated based on an assessment of the vulnerabilities and threats of the particular facility, as well as the justification for the requested item(s).
- b. Ancillary construction costs are listed as non-permissible items.
- c. Door locking mechanisms are specifically included in the RFP as allowable costs.

Question #30: Would a synagogue sanctuary building be eligible for funding under the current grant eligibility criteria? My organization received funding for two facilities that were used for the religious school in the recently released awards. At the time, an application was not filed for the synagogue since it was not used for the school and that was a requirement at the time, but the RFP doesn't mention a requirement related to use by a school.

Answer #30: Yes, if your organization is an eligible organization as defined in the RFP and the synagogue is a separate facility from the facilities that received prior funding, the synagogue is eligible to apply for funding. There is no requirement that the facility be used as a school for this grant opportunity.

Question #31: Question #5 in the Grants Management System pertains to the Vulnerability Self-Assessment. Do we answer this question by completing the Vulnerability Assessment and provide it as an attachment to GMS?

Answer #31: Yes. The completed Vulnerability Self-Assessment should be provided as an attachment in GMS. In order to submit your application, GMS will require an answer be typed in the Questions Tab; please enter "See Attached." See RFP Appendix: DCJS Grants Management System (GMS) Instructions and Helpful Hints for additional instruction.

Question #32: Which start date and end date should be written in the general tab or should we leave it blank?

Answer #32: The anticipated contract period for this opportunity is for 24 months to begin no earlier than June 1, 2022. Please enter a start date on or after June 1, 2022 and an end date 24 months later so that the contract period covers the anticipated time required to complete all spending and work on the project.

Question #33: How should the number and unit cost and total cost be filled out in the Budget Tab in the Grants Management System (GMS)? For example -1st option- if we want approximately 12 CCTV's. By the "number," should I write 12? Then for "unit cost," how much it costs for each camera, then total cost of all Cameras? Or -2nd option- should it be written by "number" 1, and unit cost the total of all cameras, and by total the same?

Answer #33: Either method is acceptable for the application, but due to the potential for changes in the cost of items it is preferred that applicants enter "1" for the Number and the total cost of the items



for both Unit Cost and Total. The estimated number of units to be purchased should be included in the justification.

Question #34: As a school/camp are we a Grantee and an Implementing Agency or a Grantee only?

Answer #34: This distinction will depend on your organization. If the same organization will be receiving the grant funds, making payments, and implementing the project, then the organization only needs to be listed as a grantee. If there is a parent organization receiving the grant funds and making payments to vendors, and a separate organization is implementing the project, they should be listed separately as grantee and implementing agency. (This might occur if your school/camp is part of a larger organization that oversees fiscal administration, but is most common among municipalities and not nonprofit organizations.)

Question #35: Is it required to include three tasks, objectives and performance measures in the work plan? For the previous DHSES application there was only one Task, Objective and Performance Measure.

Answer #35: Applicants are required to enter the standardized work plan that is included as an appendix to the RFP. The work plan contains two objectives. Objective 1 has three tasks, each with two performance measures. Objective 2 has one task with three performance measures.

Question #36: Our organization rents a defined section of a larger facility (campgrounds) for our day camp, and we have never received a DHSES SCAHC award for that facility. However, the organization we rent from did receive a DHSES SCAHC grant for security upgrades to common areas of that facility. No improvements funded by previous SCAHC grants affect our defined section of the property. Are we eligible to apply for security upgrades in our rented section?

Answer #36: If the area rented by your organization is part of the same facility (as defined by the RFP) for which SCAHC funds were already awarded, you would NOT be eligible to apply for that facility. However, if the rented area is considered a separate facility (as defined by the RFP), your organization would be eligible to apply. See Section II.A in the RFP for additional information.

Question #37: Page 4 of the RFP describes eligible applicants as not-for-profits (NFP) that, among other requirements, are “at risk of a hate crime or attack due to ideology, beliefs or mission as described by the applicant organization.” Page 3 of the RFP identifies hate crimes as targeting “individuals, groups of individuals or property because of a perception or belief about race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, religion or other characteristic as defined by state law.” In its list of protected classes, New York’s Human Rights Law adds, among other things, an individual’s gender identity or expression, and status as a victim of domestic violence.

Knowing that the facilities operated by New York’s domestic violence service providers, and the residents and staff of such facilities are at significant and continuous risk of harm based on the sex, gender identity and expression and victimization of facility clients and residents, are New York’s domestic violence service providers eligible to apply to this RFP?

Answer #37: Funding is available to nonprofit organizations at risk of a hate crime due to the organization’s ideology, beliefs, or mission as described by the applicant organization. As part of the application process, applicants must complete the Vulnerability Self-Assessment Tool and describe the



organizations risk of hate crime. The completed Assessment and the description of the organization's risk will be evaluated to determine the applicant's eligibility.

Question #38: Would participating NFP applicants be able to receive SCAHC funding for a Plans & Procedures Workplan created by a consultant focused on security, safety, emergency, and management?

Answer #38: Funding is designated specifically for either physical facility hardening or for security training. Costs for developing plans and procedures are *not* allowable, although funding could be used to train staff and/or organization membership on security procedures or practices.

Question #39: Would participating NFP applicants be able to receive SCAHC funding to support training staff in office security and safety enhancements?

Answer #39: Yes, the RFP specifically allows funding for training to advance the knowledge of security personnel, staff, and/or other organization members in protection of physical security and topics that will advance the knowledge about hate crime activity, suspicious behavior, emergency evacuation procedures, and similar topics that will help to secure the facility.

Question # 40: Can we use the funding to train staff on how to use security equipment? If so, should we list training in the Budget Tab under the category of "Equipment" and only use the training category if we want to train staff to prevent and mitigate an attack?

Answer #40: Yes, funding can be used to provide training to staff on the use of new or enhanced security equipment. If the training is provided as an included part of the price/cost of the equipment, it should be included in the Equipment category. If it is a separate cost, it should be listed in the Training category.

Question #41: The work plan provided in the RFP includes a task that states that in first three months the grantee will identify the specific equipment to be purchased, identify the cost of installation and establish that costs are within the contract budget. The work plan also states that within the first six months of the grant contract, the grantee will order the equipment identified. Are these all requirements of the RFP?

Answer #41: The standardized work plan that was provided in the RFP should be entered as written for the application. If your organization receives an award, the work plan can be adjusted as part of the contract development process to meet the needs of your project.