



Pennsylvania
**Commission on Crime
and Delinquency**

FY 2025-26 VIOLENCE INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION (VIP) & BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (BOOST) GRANTS FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Funding Announcement Q&A Tracker

Funding Announcement Link:

[fy25-26 vip and boost grants funding announcement.pdf](#)

About this Document:

This guide will provide an overview of questions and answers regarding the FY2025-26 VIP + BOOST funding announcement and application process, which opened on December 10th, 2025. Responses will be provided as staff is able to process questions through **Friday, January 23rd, 2026**.

Questions?

Please contact PCCD staff at ra-cd-vipgrants@pa.gov with 'FY25-26 VIP + BOOST FA' in the subject line.

Table of Contents

1. Eligible Applicants	3
2. Budget/Allowable Expenses.....	8
3. Awards & Funding	13
4. Applicant Resources.....	15
5. Survey Monkey.....	15
6. Eligible Activities	16
7. Project Period.....	18
8. Priority Consideration	18

1. Eligible Applicants

- a) *Are charter schools eligible to apply under this solicitation? We also have a 501(c)(3) status. Does this make us eligible to apply?*

Answer: Charter schools are not considered to be eligible to make direct application under this solicitation. However, nothing precludes a charter school from receiving services from an eligible applicant or being included as a recipient agency within the funding request of an eligible applicant to provide specific goods, activities, and/or services related to implementation of the proposed project.

- b) *Are Intermediate Units (IUs) eligible to apply under this solicitation?*

Answer: Intermediate Units (IUs) are not considered to be eligible to make direct application under this solicitation. However, nothing precludes an Intermediate Unit from receiving services from an eligible applicant or being included as a recipient agency within the funding request of an eligible applicant to provide specific goods, activities, and/or services related to implementation of the proposed project.

- c) *Are child care centers, group child care homes, or family child care homes eligible to apply under this solicitation?*

Answer: Child care centers, group child care homes, or family child care homes are not considered to be eligible to make direct application under this solicitation. However, nothing precludes these organizations from receiving services from an eligible applicant or being included as a recipient agency within the funding request of an eligible applicant to provide specific goods, activities, and/or services related to implementation of the proposed project.

- d) *Are non-public schools eligible to apply under this solicitation?*

Answer: Non-public schools are not considered to be eligible to make direct application under this solicitation. However, nothing precludes a non-public school from receiving services from an eligible applicant or being included as a recipient agency within the funding request of an eligible applicant to provide specific goods, activities, and/or services related to implementation of the proposed project.

- e) *My agency has received and/or has current VIP or BOOST funding or another funding stream from PCCD. Am I eligible to apply under this solicitation?*

Answer: Entities that have previously received funding under the VIP program, including BOOST funds, or from another PCCD funding stream, may be eligible to apply under this solicitation, dependent upon the entity's overall eligibility and upon the eligible activity/program your organization is seeking funding to support. Receipt of prior awards from PCCD does not preclude the applicant from applying under this solicitation; however, prior performance may be taken into consideration during the review process.

f) *Are townships eligible to apply under this solicitation?*

Answer: Townships are eligible to make direct application under this solicitation under the 'municipality' applicant type and must select a VIP-only eligible activity/program area.

g) *We have a 501(c)(3) designation and are a club/organization under the umbrella of a university. Can the University be the applicant agency?*

Answer: Universities are eligible to make direct application under this solicitation under the 'Institution of higher education' applicant type and must select a VIP-only eligible activity/program area.

h) *My organization is a local affiliate of a statewide youth serving nonprofit organization. Can I apply under this solicitation and be included under the statewide BOOST solicitation?*

Answer: No. Nonprofit organizations, which are affiliated with a statewide youth serving organization, may only apply under this solicitation if they are not included as a proposed subrecipient within the Statewide BOOST application. In other words, the affiliate can either apply directly under this solicitation OR be included a proposed subrecipient within the Statewide BOOST application, not both.

i) *Is the grant limited to statewide organizations?*

Answer: As stated in the funding announcement, the eligibility criteria is subject to statutory requirements under Section 1306-B(i) of the PA Public School Code and Section 1912(3) of the PA Fiscal Code. Under the **FY 2025-26 VIP + BOOST solicitation**, the eligible applicants be found on page 3. The **Statewide Building Opportunities for Out-of-School Time (BOOST) solicitation** is only open to statewide youth-serving nonprofit organizations with a 501(c)(4) status. We encourage you to read through each funding announcement for other eligibility requirements specific to each funding opportunity.

j) *My organization is a current PCCD grantee. Our current award overlaps with the project period in this solicitation. Are we eligible to apply? Should we wait to apply for a future funding cycle in which the grants periods don't overlap?*

Answer: Entities that have previously received funding, or have current funding, may be eligible to apply under this solicitation, dependent upon the entity's overall eligibility and upon the eligible activity/program your organization is seeking funding to support. Receipt of prior awards from PCCD does not preclude the applicant from applying under this solicitation; however, prior performance may be taken into consideration during the review process. Due to the competitive nature of the funding, PCCD cannot answer questions about the timing of your organization's specific proposal. Nothing precludes an eligible applicant from having overlapping award periods.

- k) *If the District Attorney's Office submits an application, can the County (or another county department) also submit a separate application, as long as the requests are distinct and non-duplicative?*

Answer: PCCD will consider applications submitted by different departments within a county. Applicants should take care to ensure that these requests are not duplicative and should provide any information necessary to distinguish their proposal from others that may be submitted by another affiliated entity. For purposes of the initial SurveyMonkey application ***only***, the District Attorney's Office and a county can submit separate and distinct applications. Please note, however, that in the event a District Attorney's office is recommended for funding by the School Safety and Security Committee and invited to proceed to the formal application phase, the county must act as the fiduciary agent and formal applicant. If ultimately awarded funding, the county must also be the direct recipient of funding on behalf of a District Attorney's Office.

- l) *Can community-based organizations that do not have 501(c)(3) status apply using a fiscal sponsor?*

Answer: Yes. Community-based organizations without 501(c)(3) status may use an eligible fiscal sponsor to apply for VIP + BOOST Grant funds or may be included as a proposed subrecipient within another eligible applicant's proposal.

- m) *My organization is an institute of higher education. Can only one application be submitted per institution?*

Answer: PCCD will consider applications submitted by different departments within a large institution such as a university. Applicants should take care to ensure that these requests are not duplicative and should provide any information necessary to distinguish their proposal from others that may be submitted by another affiliated entity.

- n) *My organization is a school district. Should we go to the SurveyMonkey or Egrants application?*

Answer: School districts are only eligible applicants under the combined FY25-26 VIP and BOOST solicitation utilizing SurveyMonkey.

- o) *My organization is a local affiliate of a statewide youth serving nonprofit organization. If my organization is currently a subrecipient under the FY24-25 statewide grant, can we apply under the FY25-26 VIP + BOOST solicitation? If my organization is a current VIP grantee, can we be included in the statewide BOOST application as a subrecipient?*

Answer: Yes. Nothing precludes eligible organizations that previously received funding - either through a direct VIP or local BOOST award or as a subrecipient under a Statewide BOOST grant - from applying for VIP + BOOST funding in FY25-26.

Similarly, nothing precludes a local affiliate of a statewide organization that was previously awarded VIP or BOOST funding from being included as a subrecipient for a statewide application in the FY25-26 Statewide BOOST funding opportunity.

In any case, all prior VIP or BOOST related funding received - either directly or indirectly - must be disclosed and explained as part of the FY25-26 application.

Please note, a local affiliate of a statewide youth serving organization can either apply for FY25-26 funds as a subrecipient under the statewide BOOST solicitation OR apply directly under the [FY25-26 VIP + BOOST funding solicitation](#), but not both. As stated in the funding announcements, PCCD strongly encourages organizations meeting this criteria to carefully review both funding announcements, coordinate applications, and not submit duplicative funding requests as these are competitive solicitations.

p) Can a 501c3 be a subrecipient on a county grant application?

Answer: Yes. Eligible applicants can include project partners, or subrecipients, as part of their proposal.

q) If we have BOOST funding, and our last BOOST Award was for a specific project, can we apply for a VIP grant with the same purpose this round? If we have BOOST funding, and our last BOOST Award was for a specific project, can we apply for BOOST again as a continuation of the same project/program?

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of the funding, PCCD cannot answer questions about your organization's specific proposal or how to respond to specific questions. Each applicant must decide whether their proposed project meets the eligibility requirements under a given activity category. Receipt of prior awards from PCCD does not preclude the applicant from applying under this solicitation.

r) We are a 501c3 and fall under the category Prevention -Youth Focus running mentoring programs and OST programs. I am confused as to whether we apply just for Boost funding or also VIP?

Answer: Unlike FY 2024-25, the FY 2025-26 VIP + BOOST funding announcement is a single, combined application process for all eligible applicants, regardless of whether they are eligible under BOOST or VIP. Due to the competitive nature of the funding, PCCD cannot answer questions about your organization's specific proposal or how to respond to specific questions. Each applicant must select the program area that their project most closely aligns with based off the information provided in the funding announcement.

s) An eligible non-profit with a 501 c3 status wants to use a fiscal sponsor for this application. Would the fiscal sponsor need to be the applicant?

Answer: Per the funding announcement, community-based organizations **without** 501(c)(3) status may use a fiscal sponsor to apply for VIP + BOOST Grant funds or may be included as a proposed subrecipient within another eligible applicant's proposal. Eligible non-profits with 501(c)(3) status should submit their own application. Nothing prohibits an organization from making direct application and also being included as a proposed subrecipient in another eligible applicant's application.

t) *Is an organization allowed to submit an application for itself and another application as a fiscal sponsor for another organization that's offering a different scope of work and outcomes?*

Answer: Applicants may only submit one application under this funding announcement; however, nothing prohibits an organization from making direct application and also being included as a proposed subrecipient in another eligible applicant's application.

u) *We are a fiscally-sponsored project with an office in Harrisburg, PA. Our fiscal sponsor is a community-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) registered in California. Would we still be eligible to apply?*

Answer: Eligible applicants include community-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations that are based in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and designated as exempt as defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

v) *My organization is fiscally-sponsored by a nonprofit. When applying, would we use our fiscal sponsor's data as the official applicant? (Meaning, using their EIN, and audits, etc.)*

Answer: If a 501(c)(3) organization will be applying on behalf of your organization as a fiscal sponsor, that sponsoring organization must be the applicant, and their information must be used to complete the applicant information section. The relationship between the two organizations, fiscal sponsor and implementing organization, must be explained within the application. However, in cases where a fiscal sponsor is utilized, the operating expenditures of the organization implementing the project (not the fiscal sponsor) must be used to determine the maximum allowable budget amount. Please see section 1. *Funding Availability & Maximum Budgets* of the funding announcement for additional information on calculating the maximum allowable budget amount.

w) *We are a regional non-profit health system 501(c)3 in PA interested in applying to FY 2025-26 VIP + BOOST FA for MOAB training. Do you see us as an eligible applicant?*

Answer: As stated in the funding announcement, community-based nonprofit 501(c)(3)s are eligible applicants. It is incumbent on the interested applicant to review the funding announcement requirements and determine eligibility based on that information. PCCD will not make that determination for you.

x) *Do Housing Authorities qualify for the VIP funding?*

Answer: As stated in the funding announcement, the eligible applicants under this solicitation include: community-based nonprofit 501(c)(3)s, municipalities, counties, district attorney's offices, institutions of higher education, school districts, career and technical centers, and libraries, depending on the eligible activity area. It is incumbent on the interested applicant to review the funding announcement requirements and determine eligibility based on that information. PCCD will not make that determination for you.

y) *I wanted to confirm eligibility for the FY 25-26 VIP + BOOST grants. Our organization's work is based in PA, but our primary organizational address is outside Pennsylvania and we are not registered as a PA nonprofit. Can you confirm whether we are eligible to apply? I've seen the Q&A for other similar questions, but the responses you the term "based in", which still feels a bit up for interpretation.*

Answer: Eligible applicants include community-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations that are based in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and designated as exempt as defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. It is incumbent upon the applicant to describe clearly how their work is 'based in' Pennsylvania

z) *I write from the [organization], an independently funded organization housed at [a] University that provides after school and summer programming for high school aged youth. We would like to apply for funding through the VIP + BOOST opportunity, but have questions about our eligibility. The announcement states that "institutions of higher education" would qualify only for the VIP opportunity. However, while our staff are technically employees of [university] and we work from its campus, all funding including program staff salaries is raised and maintained separately from the University's budget. We are hoping that as an organization with a fiscal sponsor-like arrangement with the university, we might still be eligible for funding through VIP + BOOST funds.*

Answer: Institutions of higher education are eligible applicants to for VIP funding. VIP funding can be utilized to support all of the eligible activities listed under "Section 5. Eligible Activities" including youth focused prevention activities. BOOST funding can also be used to support youth focused prevention activities; however, certain eligible applicants can ONLY apply for BOOST funding while eligible VIP applicants may seek to implement eligible activities under multiple eligible activity categories.

aa) *I'm writing to clarify if the [City] can submit multiple applications, from different departments, for the FY25-26 VIP/BOOST program for projects with no overlap?*

Answer: Under PCCD's guidelines, a "county" or "municipality" must be the direct applicant for funds; individual departments, agencies, or subdivisions of the county or municipality cannot apply directly for VIP funding. Note: One or more county or municipality departments or agencies can be listed as proposed recipient entities within the funding request of an eligible applicant (e.g., a county could include a specific department or office, or multiple subdivisions, as proposed subrecipients for grant funding).

2. Budget/Allowable Expenses

a) *What is the total grant amount I can request? Is this the amount that I can request each year for 3 years?*

Answer: The total grant amount an applicant can request is based off an eligible applicant's total actual operating expenditures for the period of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, or \$500,000, whichever is less. For example, if an agency's operating expenditures for that period was \$150,000, the total grant amount and applicant can request is \$75,000 for the entire project period. If an applicant's total actual operating expenditures are equal to, or exceed \$1,000,000,

they are eligible to request up to \$500,000 for the entire project period. Applicants will be required to submit documentation to verify their funding request.

b) *What is the indirect cost limit?*

Answer: Indirect costs are limited to 15% of modified total direct costs. Please review PCCD's [Applicant's Manual](#) for the definition of modified total direct costs.

c) *What is the maximum pay rate for a consultant?*

Answer: Procurement of all contracted services must adhere to PCCD's procurement standards which can be found in [PCCD's Applicant's Manual](#) beginning on page 17. With respect to contracts awarded to individuals/independent consultants, for costs to be allowable, the following requirements must be met: A contractual arrangement for consulting services shall be written, formal and consistent with the subgrantee's usual practice and policies for obtaining such services. Compensation for individual consultant services should be awarded in light of their reasonableness and consistency with that paid for similar services in the marketplace. The maximum rate for consultants is \$650 (excluding travel and subsistence costs) for an eight-hour day (\$81.25 per hour). An eight-hour day may include preparation, evaluation, and travel time, in addition to the time required for actual performance. Prior approval by PCCD and written justification from the subgrantee is required for consultant compensation over \$650 per day. Additional information regarding contracts with individual/independent consultants can be found in [PCCD's Applicant's Manual](#) beginning on page 26.

d) *Would we be able to apply for funding to use for construction costs to renovate an existing building into an operating detention center?*

Answer: No. Please review section eight of the funding announcement, entitled "Ineligible or Limited Program Activities & Expenses" (beginning on page 5) which states "grant funds may not be used for construction."

e) *Can you confirm you are only looking for documentation on the number provided on Question 6 (Expenditures from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). Our organization operates on a fiscal calendar year, so we can also include FY2025 if required or preferred.*

Answer: That is correct. Applicants will be required to provide documentation confirming their organization's total annual operating expenditures between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025 to verify their funding request is allowable.

f) *For the required documents requested to determine the maximum allowable grant request amount-- our fiscal year runs from 4/1-3/31 each year. Can we send our most recent audited financial statement and/or 990 from 4/1/25-3/31/26 even though it does not perfectly align with your request dates of 7/1/24-6/30/25 or would you prefer a profit loss/statement of activity that is unaudited from the exact dates or our audited statement from 4/1/24-3/31/25?*

Answer: Applicants must provide actual expenditure documentation for the period 7/1/24-6/30/25. An applicant's accounting system should be able to provide a Statement of Activity, Profit/Loss Statement, or similar report for this time period.

- g) *Last summer, with no other funding option, we used local funding to sustain [a] program. We would like to apply through the survey monkey for the VIP + Boost to fund this important program for the summer of 2026. Since the program was funded with ESSER for 4 years, and then one year of local funding, is applying for this state funding now, Supplanting? The application will take some time, and I do not want to waste anyone's time if we are not eligible.*

Answer: As stated on page 6 of the funding announcement, supplanting occurs when an entity reduces funding budgeted for an activity because grant funds are available for that same activity. It is incumbent on the applicant to determine how to structure their budget proposal so that supplantation of other funding sources would not occur and to be transparent about other funding sources available to the applicant for the proposed program.

- h) *Can program evaluation expenses be included in the project budget?*

Answer: Yes, program evaluation activities are allowable under this funding announcement.

- i) *Does the amount we can qualify for change if we apply for VIP only vs VIP & BOOST?*

Answer: No. As stated in the funding announcement, the maximum award under this year's solicitation is \$500,000 or no more than 50% of an eligible organization's annual operating expenditures, whichever is less, regardless of eligible activity area.

- j) *Non-supplantation - Per state law VIP grant funding can't be used to replace ("supplant") STATE, FEDERAL OR LOCAL funds that would otherwise be available for program related services. Does this apply to Boost funds as well? Also, do you mean local government funds or any type of local funds like foundations, corporations etc?*

Answer: The non-supplantation requirement applies to **all** funding under the VIP + BOOST funding announcement regardless of program category. Please review the definition of "supplanting" on page 6 of the funding announcement. Supplantation occurs when an entity reduces funding budgeted for an activity because grant funds are available to fund that same activity. It is incumbent on the applicant to be transparent about other funding sources available to the applicant for the proposed program.

- k) *I have a question about the limit on funding. What line will you be using in the 990 to determine the amount of the grant?*

Answer: As stated in the funding announcement, PCCD will verify the maximum budget amount through documentation provided by the applicant confirming their organization's total annual operating expenditures between the period of July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025 (not calendar year January through December). There are various expenditure lines in the 990. PCCD fiscal staff will carefully review the documentation provided by the applicant to determine the maximum allowable amount.

- l) *If a department in a university is applying for funding, what kind of Profit/Loss Statement would I need to provide? Would this be the entire university's Profit/Loss Statement?*

Answer: Yes. Since the university is the applicant, the organization's Profit/Loss Statement confirming the total annual operating expenditures between the period of July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025 should be provided for verification.

- m) *The solicitation for VIP funding says indirect costs may not exceed 15% of MTDC. The Application Guide says a federally negotiated indirect cost rate may be used. [My] University has a federally negotiated rate of 45% of all personnel costs. May we use this in an application for VIP funds?*

Answer: No. Under the FY25-26 VIP + BOOST funding announcement, as stated on page 5, applicants may request up to 15% for indirect costs. If an applicant's indirect request exceeds 15%, and the grant application moves forward, the indirect rate will be reduced to 15%. Administrative costs that are not clearly justified to be direct project costs within the applicant's proposed budget detail will be considered indirect and will be counted toward the 15% maximum indirect rate.

- n) *We intend to submit grant applications; however we just started in Aug 2025 and do not have any annual returns for the previous years. Any possibility to consider our grant applications?*

Answer: Unfortunately, since your organization did not have any annual operating expenditures between the period of July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, your organization is not eligible to apply under this year's solicitation.

- o) *Is the MOAB training an eligible use of grant funds?*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of the funding, PCCD cannot answer questions about your organization's specific proposal or how to respond to specific questions.

- p) *Can you please share the procurement thresholds and requirements associated with this Boost grant?*

Answer: PCCD's procurement standards can be found in [PCCD's Applicant's Manual](#) beginning on page 15.

- q) *We are 3 organizations becoming a collective coalition for this opportunity. We will be a new project. Are we able to use the total budgets for each organization to use as the organizational budget for submission?*

Answer: No. One agency will need to be the applicant agency, with the total grant amount based on the applicant agency's total actual operating expenditures for the period of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, or \$500,000, whichever is less.

- r) *The project would involve installation of a small garden to support mentoring and other programming for middle school students. Would installation of a garden constitute "construction" as far as PCCD defines it for this solicitation?*

Answer: No. Construction is defined as the following, found on page 25 of [PCCD's Applicant's Manual](#): *"Include in this category the costs of acquisition, expansion, or repair (including remodeling and restoring) of existing buildings or other physical facilities, and the acquisition or installation of initial equipment, including architect's fees, but not the cost of acquisition of land. Initial equipment includes heating, plumbing and air conditioning equipment and electrical, elevator, other building-related equipment and fixtures but does not include removable machinery or equipment (e.g., office equipment, reproduction equipment, etc.) not inherently a part of the building or facility."*

- s) *The municipality I work with is interested in applying for funding for the monitoring portion of the shot spotter and its interface with the city-wide surveillance camera system. Is this an eligible expense?*

Answer: As stated under Section 6. Allowable Grant Expenses, grant funding can support expenses associated with direct project activities. It is incumbent on the applicant to review the information in the funding announcement and provide justification for how requested grant expenditures are integral to the project activities.

- t) *We noticed that vehicles are not an allowable expense but that supplies and equipment are eligible. We are wondering if ebikes for police officers and bicycles for youth would be considered "vehicles" or if they would be an allowable expense as part of a community policing program to teach bike safety and participate in rides together.*

Answer: Under this solicitation, ebikes and bikes are **not** considered "vehicles". As stated under Section 6. Allowable Grant Expenses, grant funding can support expenses associated with direct project activities. It is incumbent on the applicant to review the information in the funding announcement and provide justification for how requested grant expenditures are integral to the project activities.

- u) *Hello, we are applying for a grant through [a] university. Our university center, [organization name], is the program that will benefit from the grant, if awarded. Should we use the budget for the university or [organization] for the application and the budget guidelines?*

Answer: As stated in the funding announcement, the eligible applicants under this solicitation include: community-based nonprofit 501(c)(3)s, municipalities, counties, district attorney's offices, institutions of higher education, school districts, career and technical centers, and libraries, depending on the eligible activity area. The direct applicant's information must be used to complete the applicant information section. When an applicant submits an application as a fiscal sponsor, or on behalf of another organization who is not eligible to apply on their own, the relationship between the two organizations must be explained within the application. In general, the operating expenditures of the organization implementing the project (not the fiscal sponsor) must be used to determine the maximum allowable budget amount. Please see section

1. *Funding Availability & Maximum Budgets* of the funding announcement for additional information on calculating the maximum allowable budget amount.

- v) *If a County is the applicant agency, but two departments are collaborating and applying for this grant, would the applicant organizations annual operating expenditures and documentation be for the entire County or the two individual departments?*

Answer: Eligible applicants should refer to their organization's expenditures for the period from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025 to determine their total annual organizational expenditures to calculate their total grant request amount (up to \$500,000). This should be based on the applicant entity's expenditures, not proposed subrecipients.

3. Awards & Funding

- a) *How does PCCD handle payment? Is it reimbursement only?*

Answer: Per Commonwealth guidelines, PCCD reimburses actual expenditures incurred. PCCD does not provide grant funds upfront. To request reimbursement, grantees are required to submit [fiscal reports](#) in Egrants which provide line-item detail on actual grant expenditures. Fiscal reports are required at least quarterly and can be submitted more frequently to assist organizations with cash flow, if needed. Reimbursement cannot occur until the fiscal report is reviewed and approved by PCCD.

- b) *We do not believe we have a non-procurement vendor account with the Commonwealth of PA – how can we confirm that? From the checklist, do we need to set that up prior to applying in this initial step?*

Answer: No. A vendor account does not need to be set up prior to applying. A vendor account will only be applicable if and applicant is selected for an award.

- c) *If funded, how long of a delay after invoicing do you anticipate before a monthly invoice is paid?*

Answer: From the point that the fiscal report is approved by PCCD staff, it takes approximately 3 weeks to a month to receive payment.

- d) *If grant funds are fully expended prior to the end of the grant term, are grantees required to continue submitting quarterly reports through the full grant period, or is there an option to formally close out the grant early once all funds have been expended and project activities are complete?*

Answer: Assuming an awarded grantee has met all of the requirements proposed in their application, there is an option to close out the grant early if all funds have been expended and project activities are complete. PCCD staff will be available to assist with this process if approved for an award.

- e) *Is billing/invoicing the same for VIP alone vs VIP & BOOST? Or is there a different process for each?*

Answer: Billing/invoicing will be the same for awards made under the VIP + BOOST funding announcement. Please reference question and response (3)(a).

- f) *For organizations already receiving VIP funding, is it important to distinguish the proposed use of new VIP funds from existing awards, and if so, what level of separation is expected?*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of the funding, PCCD cannot answer questions about your organization's specific proposal or how to respond to specific questions. Please review the [SurveyMonkey Questions](#) (linked on page 7 of the funding announcement) for the information PCCD is requesting as part of the application related to past and proposed programming.

- g) *What do the quarterly programmatic reports consist of? Metrics tracked?*

Answer: Please review the [Program Report Walkthrough](#) guide that can be found on the [Grant Administration webpage](#). More information on these reports and performance metrics will be provided to those organizations selected for an award. Please also note the information provided on page 7 of the funding announcement: "All applicants will also be required to acknowledge that the initial request is only the first step in the application process, and that selected entities will be required to develop a more formal application in PCCD's Egrants system as part of the grant award process if they are recommended for funding by the Committee/PCCD; that performance metrics will be required for all grant-funded projects; and that the applicant may be required to participate in webinars, calls, technical assistance, and/or virtual meetings as part of their award."

- h) *I was looking at the PCCD applicants readiness checklist and am wondering if the VIP/Boost funding is considered a federal grant and therefore will require, "Written policies and procedures in compliance with the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan and civil rights requirements as outlined in the PCCD's Application Manual note: this is required for federal grants."*

Answer: FY25-26 VIP and BOOST grants are state, not federally, funded.

- i) *I wanted to inquire whether PCCD anticipates another BOOST grant opportunity for 2027, or if this cycle will encompass most of the funding through 2029? I know you don't have a crystal ball, so just asking if you have any sense about that at this time.*

Answer: Availability of funds through the VIP + BOOST grant program is dependent on a number of factors, including the timing of when the state budget is enacted and the amount of funding appropriated for VIP + BOOST in that budget. At this time the timing of our next VIP + BOOST funding is unknown.

- j) *We are interested in this grant but have not had an audit due to how much the organization has raised so far. If an organization has received less than 100k in cash and other donations annually can audit requirements be waived?*

Answer: If selected to submit an application, PCCD will work with the applicant to determine documentation that would be acceptable in lieu of audited financial statements if the applicant has never had an audit performed.

4. Applicant Resources

a) *Will the webinar on December 19th be recorded and shared?*

Answer: Yes. The recording will be sent to all those that registered and will also be posted on the [Active Funding Announcements](#) webpage.

b) *We are unable to locate the SurveyMonkey questions. Can you please share the application questions or instructions PDF?*

Answer: Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The link has been updated in the [funding announcement](#) and can be downloaded using this [link](#). Please note the PDF has been changed to a Word document to make it easier for applicants to prepare responses; however, all applications **must be** submitted through SurveyMonkey.

c) *Are [there] supports if this is our first PCCD grant? What technical assistance support is available to write the grant proposal?*

Answer: Yes. As shared on page 9 of the funding announcement, PCCD's VIP Technical Assistance Provider, WestEd, is available to provide support for organizations during the application process. More information about these resources is available at the [PA Peace Alliance website](#). Please also review the webinar recording and slides that can be found on the [Active Funding Announcements webpage](#). Additionally, as stated on page 6 of the funding announcement, all VIP + BOOST grant-funded projects will receive initial and ongoing technical assistance supports at no cost to grantees over the course of the project period. PCCD staff will also be available to support grantees; more information will be shared on this to all organizations selected for an award.

5. Survey Monkey

a) *Are there character limits to the survey monkey text boxes?*

Answer: The large comment text boxes (for long, open-ended answers) are limited to 20,000 characters.

b) *Are we allowed to include several video links on one attachment or does one attachment = one link? Not sure if we are limited in what we can share, or if we can determine the format ourselves.*

Answer: As noted on page 7 of the funding announcement, letters of commitment/support from any named project partners and documentation to verify the applicant organization's operating expenditures are the only documents *required* as part of the application. Applicants may also provide additional (optional) supplemental materials to support their proposal. We encourage you to review the SurveyMonkey questions reference document for the attachments

section. It is incumbent on the applicant on determine how and what additional documentation to submit.

c) *Are the questions in survey monkey the same if you select expansion vs continuation?*

Answer: Yes. All applicants are asked the same questions. Please reference the [SurveyMonkey Questions document](#) (linked on page 7 of the funding announcement) to prepare your application.

d) *I am reaching out requesting clarification on the following question in the 25-26 BOOST application: 24. Will your proposed project take place in a county with high or increasing violent crime rates? Per the instructions that followed the question, I did look up our home county of Allegheny in the appendix. However, I cannot find any info on what constitutes the threshold for "high" or "increasing violent crime rates." My organization is located in Allegheny County and the numbers provided in the Appendix for that county are: 276 for 2022, 285 for 2023 and 282 for 2024. If you are able to provide any insight on whether these numbers meet the PDDC's threshold for "high" or "increasing violent crime rates" I would very much appreciate it.*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of the funding, PCCD cannot answer questions about your organization's specific proposal or how to respond to specific questions.

e) *I am in the process of applying for the BOOST grant. I have no outside partners/ subrecipients— thus, do I need to submit Letters of Support? If so, who would you recommend? The only one I can think of is our school solicitor—maybe the board president, the superintendent, or other.*

Answer: Letters of commitment/support are only required from named project partners. Due to the competitive nature of the funding, PCCD cannot answer questions about your organization's specific proposal or how to respond to specific questions.

6. Eligible Activities

a) *We are exploring whether a co-responder approach—grounded in public-health and trauma-informed violence prevention—could be proposed under this funding. The project would prioritize violence and crisis de-escalation and connection to community-based behavioral health and family supports in situations where violence/crisis escalation presents a risk of self and/or interpersonal harm. Could we propose something like this under VIP-Intervention or VIP-Healing?*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of the funding, PCCD cannot answer questions about your organization's specific proposal or how to respond to specific questions. Each applicant must select the program area that their project most closely aligns with based off the information provided in the funding announcement.

b) *Can you confirm that BOOST-funded OST programming can be implemented exclusively during the summer months (e.g., a summer-only prevention or enrichment program for school-age youth), provided it aligns with the eligible activity areas and proposed project timeline?*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of the funding, PCCD cannot answer questions about your organization's specific proposal or how to respond to specific questions.

- c) *My organization is only eligible under the BOOST eligible activity area. Would we submit under the VIP and BOOST solicitation even though my organization is only eligible for BOOST?*

Answer: Yes. PCCD issued a single, combined solicitation and application process for VIP + BOOST funding this year. Entities who are eligible for BOOST funding should apply using the VIP + BOOST application, following instructions outlined in the written funding announcement.

- d) *Can activities funded by BOOST occur during the school day through a partnership with an out-of-school-time provider or are activities funded by BOOST required to occur during after school and in the summer months?*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of the funding, PCCD cannot answer questions about your organization's specific proposal or how to respond to specific questions.

- e) *Can a school district use Boost for counseling services for our students who don't have insurance?*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of the funding, PCCD cannot answer questions about your organization's specific proposal or how to respond to specific questions.

- f) *Which of the six program areas (a-f) are adult-serving programs eligible to apply under?*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of the funding, PCCD cannot answer questions about your organization's specific proposal or how to respond to specific questions.

- g) *Can applicants include a start-up period in their implementation plan, especially for those planning a school-based program that would likely start delivering program activities in late September 2026?*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of the funding, PCCD cannot answer questions about your organization's specific proposal or how to respond to specific questions.

- h) *I wanted to confirm that applicants can serve either youth or adults using the types of programs listed in the funding announcement... but does NOT need to serve BOTH.*

Answer: Please review the eligible activities section, beginning on page 5 of the funding announcement, and all questions required as part of the SurveyMonkey submission (a complete list of [SurveyMonkey questions](#) is linked on page 7 of the funding announcement). Due to the competitive nature of the funding, PCCD cannot answer questions about your organization's specific proposal or how to respond to specific questions. Each applicant must select the program area that their project most closely aligns with based off the information provided in the funding announcement.

- i) *We are a non-profit organization, and we have designed a community program that needs funding to implement. Can we apply for this grant or is it for existing programs?*

Answer: Eligible applicants include community-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations that are based in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and designated as exempt as defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Please review all questions required as part of the SurveyMonkey submission (a complete list of [SurveyMonkey questions](#) is linked on page 7 of the funding announcement). Due to the competitive nature of the funding, PCCD cannot answer questions about your organization's specific proposal or how to respond to specific questions.

7. Project Period

- a) *The grant term is listed as 36 months. If an applicant requests the maximum award amount of \$500,000, is it permissible for grant funds to be fully expended within Year 1 or Year 2 of the grant period?*

Answer: The project must fall within the March 1, 2026 to April 30, 2029 project period, but projects do not have to be implemented over the full project period and may have a shorter duration. As stated in the funding announcement, initial funding request budget amounts and time periods must be commensurate with the type of activity/program described in the application, including the proposed scope/scale of activities to be supported with grant funds. Reasonableness and feasibility will be factored in as part of the Budget Detail score.

- b) *Are the grant periods the same for VIP only vs VIP & BOOST? Or are all applications a 3-year period?*

Answer: The project dates are the same regardless of eligible activity area.

- c) *The funding announcement states that the projects awarded will be 36-month projects with a start date of March 1, 2026 and an end date of April 30, 2029, but that time period is actually 38 months. Can you clarify the length of the grant period?*

Answer: Applications that are approved for an award will be 38-month projects with a start date of March 1, 2026 and an end date of April 30, 2029.

8. Priority Consideration

- a) *You mention that priority is given to organizations that have not received state funding. We received an NAP grant from UPMC in 2019 and we receive EITC funding each year. Do these count as relates to this priority? Are CBDG funds considered local gov't grants?*

Answer: Priority consideration under this competitive solicitation will be given to proposed projects who have not previously received funding from PCCD or another state agency to support similar project activities. State agencies include, e.g. PDE, DCED, etc. It is incumbent on the applicant to determine how to structure their budget proposal to not include supplantation and to be transparent about other funding sources available to the applicant for the proposed program.