

**INITIAL SUBMISSION OF DATA UNDER THE
Stronger Connections Grant Program**

STATE: Kentucky

SEA CONTACT

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1) Definition of High-Need Local Educational Agency (LEA)

- a) Provide the SEA’s definition of “high-need LEA” for purposes of the SCG program. *If the SEA has not finalized its definition of “high-need LEA,” provide an update of its status in defining the term, including a projected date for completion of this task.*

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) defines a “high-need LEA” as one that:

has at least forty-percent (40%) of its student population living in poverty (as defined by eligibility for participation in the National School Lunch Program), and aligns to at least one of any of the following characteristics:

- Has an increase in chronic absenteeism rate, exclusionary discipline (out-of-school suspensions and expulsions) rate, referral to the juvenile justice system or FAIR Team rate, bullying/harassment rate, school violence rate, or school substance use rate since the 2018/2019 school year;
- Has experienced a natural disaster significant enough to qualify the county in which the LEA is located for individual or public assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) since January 2021; or
- Has experienced a school shooting, suicide cluster, terrorism, school bus accident, student homicides (off campus) or hate crimes committed against students, faculty members, and/or staff since January 2018.

- b) Did the SEA provide, or does the SEA intend to provide, the public with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment and provide input on its definition of “high-need LEA”? (Please check one of the following and provide the requested information.)

Yes. Provide a description of such notice and opportunity to comment:

The KDE provided public notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment and provide input on its definition of a “high-need LEA” following its established procedures. The KDE issued a public notice of the comment period to subscribers to its email notification list. The notice was also posted on the KDE’s public comment webpage and social media accounts. The comment period opened on XXXXXX and was open for five business days.

No. The SEA does not intend to offer notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment.

The SEA has not yet determined whether it will provide the public with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on its definition of “high -need LEA.” *Provide an update of the SEA’s*

status in making this determination, including a projected date for its decision:

2) SEA's Competitive Subgrant Process

a) Did the SEA prioritize the use of SCG funds by LEAs in the SEA's competitive subgrant process? *(Please check one of the following and provide the requested information.)*

Yes. Provide a description of such priorities:

The KDE will be prioritizing applications that include evidence-based practices that meet either the strong or moderate evidence definitions found in 34 C.F.R. 77.1. Additionally, applications that include mental health supports and/or training for staff and/or students as well as those that include funding for emergency management planning supported by external vendors will receive priority.

No. The SEA does not intend to prioritize the use of SCG funds by LEAs.

The SEA has not yet determined whether it will prioritize the use of SCG funds by LEAs. *Provide an update of the SEA's status in making this determination, including a projected date for its decision:*

b) Did the SEA specifically prohibit one or more of the allowable uses of SCG funds by LEAs in the SEA's competitive subgrant process in addition to any statutory prohibitions? *(Please check one of the following and provide the requested information.)*

Yes. Provide a description of such prohibitions:

The KDE will prohibit the use of SCG funds by LEAs for the purposes of safety related building upgrades that require construction or renovation or funding safety projects on construction projects that were not completed by September 30, 2022 as . Additionally, the KDE will prohibit the use of SCG funds for the purpose of school resource officer salaries or related expenses to avoid supplanting based upon requirements outlined in KRS 158.4414.

No. The SEA does not intend to prohibit one or more uses of SCG funds by LEAs.

The SEA has not yet determined whether it will prohibit one or more uses of SCG funds by LEAs. *Provide an update of the SEA's status in making this determination, including a projected date for its decision:*

c) Did the SEA provide the public with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment and provide input on the design of its competitive subgrant process? *(Please check one of the following and provide the requested information.)*

Yes. Provide a description of such notice and opportunity to comment:

The KDE provided public notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment and provide input on its competitive subgrant process following its established procedures. The KDE issued a public notice of the comment period to subscribers to its email notification list. The notice was also posted on the KDE's public comment webpage and social media accounts. The comment period opened on December 13, 2022 and was open for five business days.

___ No. The SEA does not intend to provide the public with notice and opportunity to comment.

___ The SEA has not yet determined whether it will provide the public with notice and opportunity to comment. *Provide an update of the SEA's status in making this determination, including a projected date for its decision:*

d) Will the SEA require LEAs to describe in their applications how they have engaged or plan to engage with families, educators, and the local community in determining how these funds will be used? *(Please check one of the following and provide the requested information.)*

Yes. Provide a description of what the SEA will require LEAs to describe in their application:

The KDE will require LEAs to describe in their applications how they have engaged or plan to engage with families, educators, and the local community in determining how these funds will be used. LEAs will be required to describe, in detail, how they solicited feedback on their application, which groups were included in the solicitation, a summary of the feedback received, a discussion as to how solicitations are documented for later review, and a discussion as to how feedback informed their decision making process.

___ No. The SEA will not require LEAs to include such descriptions in their applications.

___ The SEA has not yet determined whether it will require LEAs to include such descriptions in their applications. Provide an update of the SEA's status in making this determination, including a projected date for its decision:

By signing this document, I assure that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all information and data included in this form are true and correct.	
Authorized SEA Representative (Printed Name)	
Signature of Authorized SEA Representative	Date:

OMB Number: 1810-0770

Expiration Date: March 31, 2023

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