**STATE OF MAINE**

**Maine Department of Education**

*Office of School & Student Supports*



**RFA# 202304093**

**Stronger Connections Grant Program**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **RFA Coordinator** | All communication regarding the RFA must be made through the RFA Coordinator identified below.  **Name:** Bethany Cunningham **Title:** Project Manager, Office of School & Student Supports  **Contact Information:** [Bethany.Cunningham@maine.gov](mailto:Bethany.Cunningham@maine.gov) |
| **Informational Meeting** | **Date:** May 17, 2023 **Time:** 4:00 p.m., local time  **Location:**  <https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/83612472324?pwd=UWduSXVjSjQ2bFo3SXk2MUl3aFh4UT09> |
| **Submitted Questions Due** | All questions must be submitted, by e-mail, to the RFA Coordinator no later than May 24, 2023 at 11:59 pm and must include **“RFA# 202304093 Question”** in the subject line of the e-mail. |
| **Application Submission** | Applications must be received by the Division of Procurement Services by:  **Submission Deadline: June 28, 2023** no later than 11:59 p.m., local time. Applications must be submitted electronically to the Division of Procurement Services at [proposals@maine.gov](mailto:proposals@maine.gov) and must include **“RFA# 202304093 Application Submission”** in the subject line of the e-mail. |

# **RFA TERMS/ACRONYMS with DEFINITIONS**

The following terms and acronyms, as referenced in the RFA, shall have the meanings indicated below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Term/Acronym | Definition |
| BSCA | The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act |
| Department | Maine Department of Education |
| EOP | Emergency Operations Plan |
| ESEA | Elementary and Secondary Education Act |
| Eligible entity | Entity as outlined as an LEA/SAU who meets the definition of “High Need SAU/EUT” |
| EUT | Education in Unorganized Territory |
| High Need SAU/EUT | Priority will be granted to applicants who provide the following verified data points:   * Special Education identification rate at or above the national identification rate of 15% * Higher than 2022 state average chronic absenteeism rate of 28.4% * Higher than 2022 state average substance use rate of 0.58% * Higher than state average system involved youth population of 0.86% |
| JCCO | Juvenile Community Corrections Officer |
| LEA | Local Education Agency |
| PBIS | Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports |
| [Place-based interventions](https://www.maine.gov/doe/learning/II/Place) | The alignment of learning goals by designing curriculum that connects academic learning to building connections across the community, helping students develop a sense of identity and pride |
| RFA | Request for Application |
| SAU | A state-approved unit of school administration and includes a municipal school unit, school administrative districts, community school district, regional school unit, or any other municipal or quasi-municipal corporation responsible for operating or constructing public schools as defined in [Title 20-A, §1](https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec1.html) |
| SCG | The Stronger Connections Grant Program |
| Special Education Identification Rate | Students receiving special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) |
| SRO | School Resource Officer |
| State | State of Maine |
| System Involved Youth Population Rate | Students involved with the judicial system |

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APPLICATION DETAILS AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Purpose and Background**

On June 25, 2022, President Biden signed into law the [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA),](https://oese.ed.gov/bipartisan-safer-communities-act/) legislation that expands vital mental health services and provides additional support for States and districts to design and enhance initiatives that will promote safer, more inclusive, and positive school environments for all students, educators, and school staff.

The BSCA includes $1 billion through Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for state education agencies (SEA) to competitively award subgrants to high-need local education agencies (LEA) to establish safer and healthier learning environments, and to prevent and respond to acts of bullying, violence, and hate that impact our school communities at individual and systemic levels, among other programs and activities. The US Department of Education has designated this component of the BSCA the Stronger Connections Grant Program. Maine received $4.8 million; $4,591,384 is the allocation for high-need SAUs.

## **General Provisions**

1. From the time this RFA is issued until award notification is made, all contact with the State regarding this RFA must be made through the RFA Coordinator identified on the cover page of this RFA. No other person/State employee is empowered to make binding statements regarding this RFA. Violation of this provision may lead to disqualification from the application process, at the State’s discretion.
2. The Applicant shall take careful note that in evaluating its application submitted in response to this RFA, the Department will consider materials provided in the application and internal Departmental information of previous contract/grant award history, if any, with the Applicant. The Department also reserves the right to consider other reliable references and publicly available information in evaluating the Applicant’s experience and capabilities.
3. All submissions in response to this RFA will be public records, available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) ([1 M.R.S. § 401](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/1/title1sec401.html) et seq.).
4. All applicable laws, whether or not herein contained, shall be included by this reference. It shall be the Applicant’s responsibility to determine the applicability and requirements of any such laws and to abide by them.

## **Eligibility to Submit Applications**

To be considered for grant funding under this application process, applicants must:

1. Be a School Administrative Unit as described in [20-A M.R.S.A §1, 26](https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec1.html) or [20-A M.R.S.A Chapter 112](https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/20-A/title20-Ach112sec0.html), or a school in the unorganized territory under [20-A M.R.S.A Chapter 119](https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec3201.html).
2. Have a poverty certification rate at or above 35%.

Non-public schools are eligible for an equitable share or may submit a request for funds with an SAU’s application.  
  
An eligible SAU applying for this grant must consult with appropriate private school officials before the SAU makes any decision that affects the opportunities of eligible private school children and educators to participate (ESEA section 8501(c)(3)). Such consultation might include a brief survey of non-public schools or other information gathering to indicate the schools’ interest in participating and the population to be served. Such consultation will allow the SAU to consider the needs of all students and educators—both public and private—in developing its application, and to include the projected costs for equitable services in the application.

## **Number of Awards**

In order to provide equitable access to the grant opportunity, SAUs will be divided into two classifications based upon a calculation related to SAU enrollment.

*The Average School Population, used to determine the SAU size classification, is calculated by dividing the total number of students enrolled in the SAU by the total number of schools in the SAU.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SAU Classification** | **Average School Population** | **Total Funding Available** |
| Small SAUs | 1-321 | $750,000 |
| Large SAUs | >322 | $3,841,384 |
| Total | | $4,591,384 |

The Department anticipates making multiple awards as a result of this RFA process. The Department reserves the right to issue full or lower amounts than requested, whichever is found to be in the best interest of the State. The total estimated grant funds available are up to $4,591,384, with individual grants for Small SAUs not exceeding $250,000 and Large SAUs not exceeding $500,000 over the grant period. The Department reserves the right to reallocate available funds to other SAU classifications if all funding is not utilized.

Any person aggrieved by the award decision that results from the RFA may appeal the decision to the Director of the Bureau of General Services in the manner prescribed in [5 M.R.S.A. § 1825-E](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/5/title5sec1825-E.html) and [18-554 Code of Maine Rules](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/policies-procedures/chapter-120) Chapter 120.  The appeal must be in writing and filed with the Director of the Bureau of General Services, 9 State House Station, Augusta, Maine, 04333-0009 within 15 calendar days of receipt of notification of conditional grant award.

## **Grant Award Terms**

The total grant covers a period of performance from September 1, 2023 – September 30, 2026.

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# ACTIVITES AND REQUIREMENTS

1. **Maine Department of Education Resources**

The Maine DOE will provide the following resources to grant recipients:

1. Informational webinar for grant recipients to review expectations and processes.
2. Establishment of a learning cohort for grant recipients to share and learn best practices from one another. The group will meet quarterly during the span of the grant period. The Maine DOE will look for opportunities to connect grant recipients to national experts and learn from practices in other states.
3. Technical assistance to support grant recipients to meet the requirements of the grant including reporting of metrics
4. **Allowable and Unallowable Uses of Funding**

Grant recipients under the Stronger Connections Grant Program may leverage awarded funds to support programs and activities that align with one or more allowable activities for this grant, which include:

1. **School Climate Improvement**, this can include:
   1. Family-School Partnership initiatives
   2. Community Schools
   3. Accredited restorative practices training and/or implementation
   4. Access to mental & behavioral support
   5. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion training and/or implementation
   6. Cultural responsiveness
   7. Providing equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools as required under section 8501 of the ESEA.
      1. The SAU will maintain control of the funds for the services and assistance provided to a non-public school.
      2. The SAU will have title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with these funds.
      3. The SAU will provide services directly or through contract with, another public or private entity.
      4. Services provided with these funds must be secular, neutral and nonideological.
2. **Mental Health and/or Social Emotional Learning**, this can include:
   1. Implementing evidence-based strategies that meet each student’s social, emotional, physical, and mental well-being needs.
   2. Anti-bullying programs
   3. Trauma informed strategies
   4. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
   5. Suicide prevention
   6. Wellness programs for students and/or educators
3. **School Safety & Emergency Preparedness**, this can include:
   1. Increasing access to place-based interventions and services
   2. EOP training, planning and development
   3. Structural hardware and improvements
   4. Site assessments
   5. Behavioral threat assessment
   6. SRO training and support
   7. Human trafficking prevention and training
   8. Support of the school safety specialist program stipends or support staff

Activities that are **not** allowable under this grant include:

1. The provision to any person of a dangerous weapon or training in the use of a dangerous weapon as prohibited under Section 13401 of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which amends section 8526 of the ESEA.
2. School construction, renovation or repair of any school facility is a prohibited use of the Bipartisan Stronger Connections Grant Program.
3. The purchase of a vehicle is prohibited.
4. Any transfer of funds out of the Stronger Connections Grant Program award to another ESEA authorized program is prohibited.
5. To develop or distribute materials or operate programs or courses of instruction directed at youth, that are designed to promote or encourage sexual activity, whether homosexual or heterosexual is prohibited.
6. To provide sex education or HIV-prevention education in schools unless that instruction is age appropriate and includes the health benefits of abstinence; or operate a program of contraception distribution in schools. (ESEA sections 8526(3), (5), and (6)) is prohibited.
7. For medical services or drug treatment or rehabilitation is prohibited, except for integrated student supports, specialized instructional support services, or referral to treatment for impacted students, which may include students who are victims of, or witnesses to, crime or who illegally use drugs. (ESEA section 4001(b)).
8. **Grant Requirements**
9. Follow necessary supplement/not supplant requirements as outlined in section 4110 of the ESEA.
   1. SAUs are not permitted to fund pre-existing positions or programs unless they are expanding in scale and capacity.
10. Track all expenditures of funds separately from the SAUs Title IV, Part A allocation under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).
11. **Reports**

In addition to the reports listed below, Awarded Applicants shall be expected to participate, as requested, in any Department evaluation of the Stronger Connections Grant Program and will cooperate with any audit or examination of records with respect to such funds.

* 1. Track and record all data/information necessary to complete the required reports listed in **Table 1**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Table 1 – Required Reports** | | |
| **Name of Report** | | **Description** |
| **a.** | Regular Narrative Report | Includes information on performance metrics, operations, successes, and barriers |
| **b.** | Regular Financial Report | Includes information on expenditures, as detailed in the grant application |
| **c.** | Grant Award Closeout Report | Includes information on performance metrics met and total expenditures |

# Submit all the required reports to the Department in accordance with the timelines established in **Table 2**:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Table 2 – Required Reports Timelines** | | | |
| **Name of Report** | | **Period Captured by Report** | **Due Date** |
| **a.** | Narrative Report | Deadlines for regular narrative reports will be spelled out in the grant award between the state and grantee. | Thirty (30) days after date set in the grant award |
| **b.** | Financial Report | Deadlines for regular financial reports will be set in the grant award between the state and the grantee. | Thirty (30) days after each quarter |
| **c.** | Grant Award Closeout Report | Entire grant award period | Sixty (60) days following the close of the grant award period |

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KEY PROCESS EVENTS

## **Submitting Questions about the Request for Applications**

Any questions must be submitted by e-mail to the Grant Coordinator by the date and time on the cover sheet of this RFA document. Submitted Questions must include the subject line: “RFA# 202304093 Questions”. The Department assumes no liability for assuring accurate/complete/on time e-mail transmission and receipt.

Question & Answer Summary: Responses to all questions will be compiled in writing and posted on the following website: [Grant RFPs and RFAs](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/grants). It is the responsibility of all interested parties to go to this website to obtain a copy of the Question & Answer Summary. Only those answers issued in writing on this website will be considered binding.

## **Amendments to the Request for Applications**

All amendments (if any) released in regard to this Request for Applications will be posted on the following website: [Grant RFPs and RFAs](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/grants). It is the responsibility of all interested parties to go to this website to obtain amendments. Only those amendments posted on this website are considered binding.

## **Submitting an Application**

1. **Applications Due:** Applications must be received by the date and time on the cover sheet of this RFA document. Applications received after the 11:59 p.m. deadline will be ineligible for award consideration for that annual application enrollment period.
2. **Submission Instructions:** Applications are to be submitted to the State of Maine Division of Procurement Services, via email, to [Proposals@maine.gov](mailto:Proposals@maine.gov).
   1. Only applications received by e-mail will be considered. The Department assumes no liability for assuring accurate/complete e-mail transmission and receipt.
   2. E-mails containing links to file sharing sites or online file repositories will not be accepted as submissions. Only e-mail applications that have the actual requested files attached will be accepted.
   3. Encrypted e-mails received which require opening attachments and logging into a proprietary system will not be accepted as submissions. Please check with your organization’s Information Technology team to ensure that your security settings will not encrypt your proposal submission.
   4. File size limits are 25MB per e-mail. Applicants may submit files separately across multiple e-mails, as necessary, due to file size concerns. All e-mails and files must be received by the due date and time listed above.
   5. Applicants are to insert the following into the subject line of their email submission: **“RFA# 202304093 Application Submission – [Applicant’s Name]”**
   6. Applications are to be submitted as a single, typed, PDF or WORD file and must include:
      1. Application Cover Page
      2. Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification
      3. Application Form

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APPLICATION EVALUATION AND SELECTION

1. **Scoring Process:**

For applications that meet the eligibility requirements in Part I, the Grant Review Team will use a consensus approach to evaluate and score all sections listed below. Members of the Review Team will not score those sections individually but, instead, will arrive at a consensus as to assignment of points for each of those sections.

1. **Scoring Weights:**

The score will be based on a 100-point scale and will measure the degree to which each application meets the following criteria.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scoring Criteria** | **Points Available** |
| **Part I – Eligibility** | Pass/Fail |
| **Part II – Project Narrative**   * Project narrative identifies need, main areas of focus and subcategories that will be addressed through desired programming. * Outlines process of implementation and how program will engage students, families, educators, staff and/or community organizations * Details how programming will positively impact school climate and community * Provides intention to measure and report outcomes of programming | 50 |
| **Part III – Budget and Budget Narrative** | 30 |
| **Part IV – Sustainability** | 20 |
| **Total Points** | 100 |

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APPLICATION COVER PAGE

**Handwritten Applications Will Not Be Accepted**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SAU Name:** | | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | | |
| **Superintendent Name:** | | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | | |
| **Tel:** | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | | **E-mail:** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **SAU Mailing Address:** | | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | | |
| **SAU Mailing City/State/Zip:** | | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | | |
| ***Provide information requested below if different from above*** | | | | | | |
| **Point of Contact for Application- Name and Title** | | | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | |
| **Tel:** | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | | **E-mail:** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **SAU Mailing Address:** | | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | | |
| **SAU Mailing City/State/Zip** | | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | | |
| **Dollar Amount of Application:** | | | | Click or tap here to enter text. | | |

* No personnel currently employed by the Department or any other State agency participated, either directly or indirectly, in any activities relating to the preparation of the Applicant’s application.
* No attempt has been made, or will be made, by the Applicant to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application.
* The above-named organization is the legal entity entering into the resulting agreement with the Department should they be provided a grant award.
* The undersigned is authorized to apply for an receive a grant award on behalf of the above-named SAU.

To the best of my knowledge, all information provided in the enclosed application, both programmatic and financial, is complete and accurate at the time of submission.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name (Print):** Click or tap here to enter text. | **Title:** Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Authorized Signature:** | **Date:** Click or tap here to enter text. |

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**Stronger Connections Grant Program**

DEBARMENT, PERFORMANCE and NON-COLLUSION CERTIFICATION

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SAU Name:** | Click or tap here to enter text. |

*By signing this document, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the aforementioned organization, its principals and any subcontractors named in this application:*

1. *Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, and declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from bidding or working on contracts or grant awards issued by any governmental agency.*
2. *Have not within three years of submitting the application for this grant award been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for:*
   1. *Fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a federal, state or local government transaction contract, or grant award.*
   2. *Violating Federal or State antitrust statutes or committing embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;*
   3. *Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or Local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (b) of this certification; and*
   4. *Have not within a three (3) year period preceding this application had one or more federal, state or local government transactions terminated for cause or default*.
3. *Have not entered into a prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a response for the same materials, supplies, equipment, or services and this application is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. The above-mentioned entities understand and agree that collusive bidding is a violation of state and federal law and can result in fines, prison sentences, and civil damage awards.*

**Failure to provide this certification may result in the disqualification of the Applicant’s application, at the discretion of the Department.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name (Print):** Click or tap here to enter text. | **Title:** Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Authorized Signature:** | **Date:** Click or tap here to enter text. |

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**Stronger Connections Grant Program**

APPLICATION FORM

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SAU Classification:** | ☐ Small See [Number of Awards](#_Number_of_Awards) for definitions.  ☐ Large |

**Part I – Eligibility**

1. **Applicant’s Organization is a:**

SAU as described in [20-A M.R.S.A §1, 26](https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec1.html) or [20-A M.R.S.A Chapter 112](https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec2401.html)

School in the unorganized territory under [20-A M.R.S.A Chapter 119](https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec3201.html)

1. **Poverty Certification**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Poverty Level Certification** | | | | | | |
| 1. **Poverty Rate** | Click or tap here to enter text. | | **Date Determined** | Click or tap here to enter text. | | |
|  | (A)  Enrollment | Click or tap here to enter text. | (B)  # of Low Income Students | Click or tap here to enter text. | (C)  School Level Poverty Rate  (\*This is calculated by A / B) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 1. **Please indicate how poverty level was determined for the SAU (Check all that apply:)** | | | | | | |
|  | Number of children ages 5-7 in poverty as identified by the [U.S. Census Bureau](https://data.census.gov/) | | | | | |
|  | Number of children eligible for free and reduced priced lunches | | | | | |
|  | Number of children in families receiving assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | | | | | |
|  | Number of children eligible to receive medication assistance from Medicaid program | | | | | |
|  | Number of children in families receiving assistance from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) | | | | | |

**Part II – Project Narrative**

|  |
| --- |
| * 1. **Identification of Need** *1 page maximum*   Describe:   * how the SAU assessed their local needs, and * how this assessment informs the proposed use of funds. Identify the characteristics of the SAU, its schools, and high-level area(s) of need to be addressed through the proposed program(s). |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| * 1. **Supporting Data**   1. Provide data and details regarding the number of students who may be impacted by this funding. \*Priority will be given to applications that can provide rates for the criteria listed below. (*See* [*Appendix A*](#Appendix_A) *for data source references.)*  ☐ Special Education identification rate at or above the national identification rate of 15%  SAU rate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ☐ Has a higher than 2022 state average chronic absenteeism rate of 28.4%  SAU rate \_\_\_\_\_  ☐ Has a higher than 2022 state average substance use rate of 0.58%  SAU rate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ☐ Has a higher than state average system involved youth population of 0.86%  SAU rate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 1. Include additional relevant school safety assessments, annual Comprehensive Needs Assessment, culture and climate assessments, capacity assessments and/or site assessments. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| * 1. **Program Description** *2 page maximum*   Describe the proposed program(s) and/or activities for which the SAU is seeking funding. Ensure the narrative addresses the context of identified need as it relates to proposed initiative(s). Include:   * + 1. Areas of focus that connect directly to [Allowable Activities](#Allowable)     2. Implementation plan and how program(s) will engage students, families, educators, staff and/or community organizations     3. Any evidence-based strategies that will be utilized     4. How proposed programming will positively promote safer, more inclusive, and positive school environments for all students, educators, and school staff |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Measurement of Outcomes**   Use the table to provide details regarding how you will measure outcomes of proposed programming.  Identify the Performance Measure and explain the proposed strategies and activities.  Indicate how you will assess program performance (Indicator) and provide anticipated outcomes from the proposed strategies and activities. | | | | | |
| **Performance Measure** | **Strategies and Activities** | **Indicator Used** | **Proposed Outcomes** | | |
| Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 |
| *Example: Percentage of students who will show an improvement in student behavior* | *Professional Development: Restorative Practices* | *Teacher Survey Data and Office Referral Data* |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Part III – Budget and Budget Narrative**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget**  Provide the information below on the operation budget or cost estimates for the use of requested funds. Please provide key details in the budget narrative section to justify each line of the funding request. | | | | | |
| **Budget Category** | **Amount Requested for Year 1** | **Amount Requested for Year 2** | **Amount Requested for Year 3** | **Total Amount Requested (All 3 yrs)** | **Explanation of expense (include details by year)** |
| Personnel (salary and benefits) | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Contracted services | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Instructional Materials & Supplies | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Non-instructional Materials & Supplies | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Other (specify) | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **TOTAL REQUEST** | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Budget Narrative** *one page maximum* |
| Please provide a detailed plan, by year, of your anticipated grant-supported expenses in each of the above budget categories. Include any details that are unique to each year of available funding. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

**Part V - Sustainability**

*Two page maximum*

|  |
| --- |
| 1. How will the overall work funded through this application be sustained following the grant award? Please include anticipated funding sources to sustain the work beyond the 2025-2026 school year. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 1. How will the grant result in longer-term relationships and partnerships between community organizations to support positive, inclusive, school cultures? |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 1. What are the potential risks that might hinder your ability to achieve your stated goals? What supports will you need to mitigate the potential risks? |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

State of Maine – Department of Education  
RFA# 202304093  
**Stronger Connections Grant Program**

APPENDIX A

SUPPORTING DATA/HIGH NEED ASSESSMENT MEASURES

The supporting data must be derived from a verifiable source. Applicants should use the resources listed below as determining sources of high need data.

**Special Education identification rate (as of October 1, 2022):**   
Counts of special education identifications should be taken directly from the SAU’s counts as reported in NEO.

**Chronic Absenteeism rate data (School Year 2021-2022):**  
These rates can be found at the Data Warehouse link below. Select “Attendance Data” and select tab labeled “2022 by SAU and School.”

[https://www.maine.gov/doe/data-reporting/reporting/warehouse/behavior](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fdoe%2Fdata-reporting%2Freporting%2Fwarehouse%2Fbehavior&data=05%7C01%7CBethany.Cunningham%40maine.gov%7Cc7c0e8d1c11f4845e3b908db1f10c80e%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638137929154462719%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NJc9gs9Fe2LFAjN8iUCZ%2BeqxGrF5bvQ7HBKaYdk2wDc%3D&reserved=0)

**Substance Use Rate (School Year 2021-2022):**

These rates are based on total number of alcohol and illicit drug incidents and can be found at the Data Warehouse link below. Select “Behavior Data” and select tab labeled “Incidents”.

[https://www.maine.gov/doe/data-reporting/reporting/warehouse/behavior](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fdoe%2Fdata-reporting%2Freporting%2Fwarehouse%2Fbehavior&data=05%7C01%7CBethany.Cunningham%40maine.gov%7Cc7c0e8d1c11f4845e3b908db1f10c80e%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638137929154462719%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NJc9gs9Fe2LFAjN8iUCZ%2BeqxGrF5bvQ7HBKaYdk2wDc%3D&reserved=0)

**System involved youth population (School Year 2021-2022):**   
SAUs using the rate of system involved youth can contact their JCCO or the Department of Corrections to provide an estimate of the count for the SAU. Contact information can be found at: <https://www.maine.gov/corrections/jcc/>