Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program

Cybersecurity continues to be a growing concern for many schools and libraries across the country. Many of our schools and libraries cite the lack of funding as one of the primary reasons for not investing in the solutions and services necessary to protect their networks and data against cyber threats and criminals. In early June 2024, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a preliminary ruling to establish a three-year pilot program under the Universal Service Fund (USF) aimed at supporting schools, libraries, and a consortium of schools and libraries by covering the costs of eligible cybersecurity services and equipment. This program's purpose will be to test the effectiveness of USF funding to determine potential permanent funding for cybersecurity in schools and libraries.

Funding Availability

A total of $200 million will be available for the three-year pilot period. All awards will be on a pre-E-rate discount basis.

- **For Schools and School Districts:** A minimum of $15,000 will be available in annual support, with a maximum of $1.5 million annually.

- **For Libraries:** A minimum of $15,000 will be available in annual support for up to eleven (11) libraries or sites, with a maximum of $175,000 annually for library systems with more than 11 libraries or sites.

- **For Consortiums:** A maximum of $1.5 million will be available for eligible schools, libraries, or both. Funding awards will be based on student count and/or the number of library sites.

Allowable Costs

Eligible projects allowed under this pilot program will center around four types of equipment or services:

1. Advanced/Next-Generation Firewalls
2. Endpoint Protection
3. Identity Protection & Authentication
4. Monitoring, Detection, & Response

View a full list of eligible services. Please note that all purchases must be competitively bid.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include K-12 school districts (including private and charter school districts), libraries, and a consortium of schools and libraries that meet the eligibility requirements for the E-rate Program. Applicants do not need to be a current or former E-Rate program participant in order to be eligible to apply for the Pilot.

Deadline Information

This program will have a two-part application process. The first application window will open September 17, 2024, and will close November 1, 2024. Only applicants selected in Part One may participate in Part Two, with the Part Two application window being announced at a later date.

Applicants may sign up for updates on the pilot program.

The CrowdStrike Grants Support Program is Here to Help!

Through the CrowdStrike Grants Support Program, we are here to guide you along your grantseeking journey in a number of ways – all of which are at no cost and no obligation to you. The CrowdStrike Grants Support Program provides public sector agencies, educational institutions, and hospitals with grants information, customized funder research, and consultation that will help develop project ideas, get technology-rich projects funded, and even expand initiatives that are already in the works.

Contact

Interested in learning more or gaining expert assistance for accessing these or other grant funds? Contact us at grants@crowdstrike.com to engage the CrowdStrike' complementary grant seeker support services.

Funder Prospecting

More than 5,000 grant programs are opened each year in the US, providing approximately $500 billion dollars in funding. With a few specifics on your concept, CrowdStrike Grants Support Program consultants will develop customized reports on funding opportunities that are the best fit with the project. The reports will identify the most relevant funders, based on the project, your organization type, and the geographic location where the project will be deployed. Then the consultants will review their findings with you on a conference call, scheduled at your convenience.

Project Development Consultation

Grants Development Consultants with the CrowdStrike Grants Support Program work with public sector agencies, schools, colleges, and healthcare institutions, to help them develop and define their projects in the context of what fu nders want to support.
If you already have an idea of the technology you'd like, Grants Development Consultants will help you clarify and articulate the needs the technologies will address and provide input on other elements that might further develop and strengthen your project.

Proposal Review & Feedback

Grants Development Consultants from the CrowdStrike Grants Support Program are available to review and edit your organization's grant proposals. This service provides a fresh perspective, that your proposal meets all requirements while being clear and persuasive, giving your organization greater confidence before submission.

CROWDSTRIKE

GRANTS OFFICE
empowering communities

To support the CrowdStrike Grants Support Program, CrowdStrike has engaged Grants Office, a national grants development services firm with a 23-year track record of helping public sector agencies find and secure funding for technology projects.