



# Stronger Connections Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Question</b> | In past Title IV applications, would the list of MSDE’s Title IV, Part A Repository of Allowable Strategies and Activities be OK if we were to do a similar activity? Each of these have been OK’d in past Title IV applications. |
| <b>Answer</b>   | Yes, with limitations. Any current activities from Title IV, Part A pertaining to Safe and Healthy Students are allowable. However, funding used for the activity must be able to supplement and not supplant.                    |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Question</b> | We recently did a needs assessment for Concentration of Poverty (which is more current), would we be able to utilize/reference that in addition to our Title IV needs assessment?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Answer</b>   | In order for “another assessment” to replace the comprehensive needs assessment, the ‘other assessment’ must contain the statutorily required components of the comprehensive needs assessment. In other words, the other assessment must examine the needs for improvement in the three content areas – well-rounded education, safe and healthy students, and effective use of technology (section 4106(d)(1)). Additionally, the other assessment must have been developed within the past three years (section 4106(d)(3)). |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Question</b> | Can we intentionally budget with the Tydings amendment (September 30, 2026)?                                                                                             |
| <b>Answer</b>   | Yes, but the LEA must encumber and expend all expenses from Stronger Connections by June 30, 2026, so that the final invoice is submitted to MSDE by September 30, 2026. |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Question</b> | How do you see the SCG coordinating with grants with very similar purposes, such as Title I, Part A, McKinney-Vento and COPS-School Violence Prevention Programs (and others)?                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Answer</b>   | Funds cannot be transferred and can only be used for Safe and Healthy Students. The LEA can coordinate between grants but be specific about what activities will be supported by Stronger Connections and what activities will be supported by other grant funds so that they are not supplanted but supplemented. |

|                 |                                                             |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Question</b> | How do we allocate funding for Equitable Services?          |
| <b>Answer</b>   | The LEA can use the same formula used for Title IV, Part A. |

|                 |                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Question</b> | So, will there be an allocation based on their enrollment as it is with the other Title programs?   |
| <b>Answer</b>   | Yes. The LEA should submit the application with a funding request based on the need for activities. |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Question</b> | Non-public schools – do we use all the non-publics or just those that qualify for Title IV, Part A?                                                           |
| <b>Answer</b>   | The LEA should demonstrate consultation with all non-public schools to support eligible non-public students and teachers for participation and service needs. |

|                 |                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Question</b> | Can the LEA use the information from previous equitable services meetings or have a new meeting to discuss this grant? |
| <b>Answer</b>   | The LEA should conduct a new meeting to discuss this grant.                                                            |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Question</b> | Regarding partnering with faith-based organizations, I was referring to the program requirements #1 (“Demonstration consultation with parents, teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, students, community-based organizations...”) and #5 (“Description of program must be coordinated with other schools and community-based services and programs” “be conducted in partnership with an IHE, business, non-profit organization, community-based organization, or other public or private entity...”) |
| <b>Answer</b>   | Yes, non-profits and faith-based organizations are eligible. See federal guidance: <a href="#">Sub Section 3474.15</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

This page will be updated with frequently asked questions and answers on a continual basis.