



Request for Application Governor's 2024-205 It's On Us PA Grant

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education (OPHE) is pleased to issue this request for applications for eligible postsecondary institutions to fund programs to address sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking education, prevention, and response in postsecondary education. This document describes the requirements applicants will be expected to meet and the criteria that will be used to award funding.

The application submission window will open at 12:00 AM on **Monday, October 7, 2024**, and close at 11:59 PM on **Monday, October 28, 2024**.

Please submit your application submission via eGrants.

Background

Research shows that sexual abuse is an ongoing problem and that substantiated claims occur once every nine minutes for children under the age of 18¹. Two out of three of these substantiated claims or sixty-six percent of these victims are between the ages of 12-17². The impact of childhood sexual abuse increases the likelihood of mental health disorders ranging from drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, to major depression in adulthood³.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, "almost 1 in 4 undergraduate women experienced sexual violence or misconduct at 33 major universities (<https://www.nsvrc.org/statistics>)

In college, about 1 in 5 women experience sexual assault, and women who identify as lesbian, queer, or gay are more likely than heterosexual women to experience sexual assault at college, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.⁴ A 2019 report based on campus climate surveys from the Association of American Universities found that 26.4% of undergraduate women, 6.9% of undergraduate men, and 23.1% of undergraduate transgender, genderqueer, and nonbinary students experienced sexual assault in college. 41.8% of students reported experiencing sexually harassing behavior; this figure was 65.1%

¹ Office on Women's Health, "Sexual Assault on College Campuses," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, September 13, 2018, <https://www.womenshealth.gov/relationships-and-safety/sexual-assault-and-rape/college-sexual-assault>.

² David Cantor et al., *AAU Campus Climate Survey* (Association of American Universities, 2019), 47, 80, [AAU-Campus-Climate-Survey-FINAL-10-20-17.pdf](#)

³ [Children and Teens: Statistics | RAINN](#)

⁴ [COE - Criminal Incidents at Postsecondary Institutions \(ed.gov\)](#)

for transgender, genderqueer, and nonbinary students.⁵ LGBTQ+ students are more likely than their peers to experience sexual harassment and violence and are also less likely to report it to authorities.⁶

Across student groups, sexual violence is most likely to occur at certain times of year (in the fall) and early in an undergraduate student's career (at the beginning of their first and second semesters in college).⁷ In the overwhelming majority of cases—90%—campus sexual violence is committed by someone the victim knows and trusts, such as a friend, classmate, roommate, partner, or other acquaintance. While many survivors share their experiences with a trusted friend or peer, fewer than 10% of survivors of sexual assault in college report it to officials such as law enforcement, campus police or public safety, school officials or faculty, or a crisis center or health care center.

Additionally, research has shown that men, particularly, male college athletes are being left out of the conversation on preventing sexual assault, sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence. The American Association of Universities survey report of 2019 shows 6.8% of undergraduate men and 2.5% of graduate students reported unwanted sexual contact (page IX). "Males are far less likely to report their victimization and therefore far less likely to seek or obtain help," says Meghan Stroshine, Associate Professor at Marquette University.⁸

The It's On Us PA campaign is based on a core belief that sexual violence should not be part of any student's education. Supported by Governor Josh Shapiro and education leaders across the commonwealth, including school superintendents and college presidents, It's On Us PA is a statewide campaign that invites education leaders and all Pennsylvanians to be part of the solution to protect students from sexual violence. The campaign has four major goals:

- 1. Provide an education program for students in consultation with a local rape crisis center and domestic violence program** regarding sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking and provide resources and services available for victims.
- 2. Improve awareness, prevention, reporting, and response systems** regarding sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking prevention in schools, colleges, and universities to better serve all students.
- 3. Remove or reduce barriers** that prevent survivors of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking from reporting and/or accessing vital resources by creating a more consistent, empowering reporting process for student survivors of gender-based violence.
- 4. Demonstrate significant, proactive, and sustainable leadership** to change institutional culture by challenging Pennsylvania's education leaders – including college and university presidents – as well as students, faculty, staff, families, and communities to pledge to improve their institutions' climate.

As part of the It's On Us PA campaign, Governor Shapiro successfully advocated for

⁵Adrienne Green and Alia Wong, "LGBT Students and Campus Sexual Assault," *The Atlantic*, September 22, 2015, [Why College Is More Dangerous for LGBT Students - The Atlantic](#).

⁶ Matthew Kimble, Andrada D. Neacsiu, William F. Flack Jr., & Jessica Horner, "Risk of Unwanted Sex for College Women: Evidence for a Red Zone," *Journal of American College Health* 57, 3 (2008), [Risk of unwanted sex for college women: evidence for a red zone - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

⁸[Underreporting among males likely due to gender-based stigma – Marquette Wire](#);2/2018.

continued and increased funding in the 2024-25 state budget to support institutions' efforts to meet these goals. The purpose of the Governor's It's On Us PA Grant Program is to fund initiatives that address campus sexual assault and education on the prevention of dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking in ways that align to the goals of the It's On Us PA campaign, including initiatives that:

- **Increase mechanisms and capacity for reporting.** Develop, improve, or increase mechanisms for anonymous reporting and/or improve institutional capacity to collect data to meet federal and state reporting requirements.
- **Improve institutional awareness and training.** Develop, improve, or implement awareness and prevention education curricula or campus-wide training for students, faculty, and staff, including, but not limited to, institutional awareness campaigns to improve understanding of the reporting process.
- **Improve institutional response to sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.** Develop or improve structures to make students aware of the rights of survivors of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking to enhance awareness and utilization of the available on- and off-campus resources for survivors, or to strengthen institutional response protocols and resources for supporting students who have experienced sexual violence.
- **Implement a memorandum of understanding with a local rape crisis center and domestic violence program.** Develop partnerships to assist in developing institutional policy, programming, and training regarding sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking for both students and staff. This partnership should also include the opportunity for students and staff to have an off-campus alternative for receiving confidential services to address sexual harassment and violence, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

Eligibility

For the purposes of this grant, "institution" shall include postsecondary institutions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with authorization to award an associate degree or higher academic degree, as defined in section 2001-J of the Public-School Code of 1949, as amended (24 P.S. §20-2001-J) and private licensed schools, as defined in the Act of December 15, 1986 (P.L. 1585, NO. 174).

Note: Private Licensed Schools do not need to offer associate degrees to be eligible to apply for this grant.

Only one proposal will be accepted from each postsecondary institution. Applicants may not apply as a consortium. Only the main campus may apply, and funds can be disseminated to branches as the institution deems appropriate, if awarded.

To be eligible to apply for a Governor's 2024-25 It's On Us PA Grant:

1. A leader representing the institution must have taken the [It's On Us PA Pledge](#) for the current grant year, indicating support for the initiative's goals and a commitment to creating a safer, more supportive campus community;
2. The institution must be compliant with requirements in section 2001-G of the Public School Code of 1949 as amended by [Act 55 of 2022](#), "Sexual Violence, Dating

Violence, Domestic Violence and Stalking Education, Prevention and Response at Institutions of Higher Education and Private Licensed Schools;”

3. The institution must have adopted a sexual harassment and sexual violence policy, and established an anonymous reporting system, in accordance with Article XX-J of the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949 ([Act 16 of 2019](#));
4. The institution must have a definition of consent as part of the institution’s code of conduct or sexual misconduct or harassment policy in compliance with Article XX-G of the Public School Code of 1949 as amended by [Act 55 of 2022](#); and
5. The institution must have a notification of rights, accommodations and protective measure in writing and on the institution’s publicly accessible internet website in accordance with Article XX-G of the Public School Code of 1949 as amended by [Act 55 of 2022](#).

Funding and Eligible Programs

The Governor’s It’s On Us PA Grant Program offers institutions the opportunity to apply for competitive funding in an amount up to:

- \$40,000 for institutions with 10,000 learners or less;
- and up to \$60,000 for institutions with 10,001 learners or more.

Funds may be expended only on eligible programs, activities, and purposes identified in the proposal and approved by PDE’s Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education.

Funding requests can include a combination of any of the eligible programs described in this request for application. Funding is not guaranteed to any applicant.

Eligible proposals must focus on addressing the goals of the Governor’s It’s On Us PA Campaign, listed in the Background section of this document.

Consideration for an It’s On Us PA Grant will be given to proposals that include (but are not limited to):

Prevention:

1. Programming that enhances the creation and adoption of curricula, comprehensive prevention strategies, and/or campus-wide training for students, faculty, and staff, including evidence-based awareness or prevention programs that promote healthy relationship skills or programs that reduce social norms and attitudes that contribute or lead to sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking.
2. Development or promotion of institutional policies, such as codes of conduct, that establish affirmative-consent standards.
3. Initiatives that partner with K-12 and/or advocacy organizations to create, adopt, or enhance curricula or provide programming to increase awareness of and improve responses to sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking in both the K-12 and postsecondary settings.
4. Programming and initiatives which address populations of learners who are more at risk for assault such as those in the LGBTQ+ community.
5. Interactive programming that engages male students/athletes in prevention and education to include bystander training.

Reporting:

6. Programs designed to develop, improve, or increase mechanisms for anonymous reporting of sexual violence.
7. Efforts to improve institutional capacity to collect data to meet federal and state reporting requirements.
8. Institutional campaigns to raise awareness and understanding of the reporting process, rights of survivors, and provide confidential resources and services available for victims of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking inclusive of male students/athletes.

Response:

9. Programs to develop or improve structures to make students aware of the rights of survivors of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, to enhance awareness and utilization of the available on- and off-campus resources for survivors of sexual assault, or to strengthen institutional response protocols and resources for supporting students who have experienced sexual violence inclusive of male students/athletes.
10. Initiatives not described above that are aligned to the grant program purpose and the goals of the Governor's It's On Us PA campaign, which take into account circumstances and continued effects brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible uses of funds requested by Private Licensed Schools who do not offer AST/ASB programs include initiatives to start awareness programming with learners, faculty, and staff to include the designing/implementation of an educational program, inviting speakers/trainers to facilitate discussion, and website development for It's On Us PA program awareness.

Priority consideration for a Governor's 2024-25 It's On Us PA Grant will be given to proposals that include:

- Partnering or collaborating with K-12 schools, or programs that benefit or target K-12 students. For example, a postsecondary institution might collaborate with a local high school on sexual violence prevention programming.
- Developing or promoting affirmative-consent standards as part of their institution's code of conduct.
- Programs focusing on the intersectionality of learners with disabilities and sexual assault.
- Programs/initiatives focusing on populations of learners who are more at risk for assault such as those in the LGBTQ+ community.
- Demonstrating how the program sustains or builds upon and enhances initiatives implemented by the institution in previous years.
- Institutions developing or promoting programs that provide proactive and empowering prevention education for men and male athletes.
- Institutions developing or promoting training for implementations of new Title IX regulations.

Allowable Expenses

Due to the limited amount of funding, only items directly related to eligible programs and activities covered in this request for application will be funded by the It's On Us PA Grant Program. Honorariums and stipends cannot exceed 25% of grant funding.

Unallowable Expenses

Grant funds paid to the institution may not be used for direct salaries, fringe benefits, or operational rates. All budgets will be reviewed to evaluate appropriateness and connection to proposed grant activities and goals.

Note: *Once approved, the institution will invoice for payment of the grant. **Funding must be spent by the end of the grant period and institutions may ask for a no-cost extension 60 days prior to the end of the grant period. Requests made beyond that date will not be granted.***

eGrants Access

Grant applications will be submitted through the eGrants system.

For access to the eGrants system and the related grant opportunities, prospective applicants should complete the [eGrants Request Form](#). **Applicants must complete a new request form each grant cycle.** Please note that the person completing the grant application must have signatory authority to negotiate grants and contracts for the institution and be able to upload documentation into the eGrants system. Institutions with eSign ability in eGrants will be able to utilize this feature to complete the application.

Grant Application Components

The It's On Us PA grant application consists of five areas: Attachments, Applicant Information, Program Information, Narratives, and Budget.

Area 1. Attachments and Materials

1. The institution must provide links to or upload a copy of the institution's current sexual violence policy.
2. Institutions that award associate degrees and higher must provide links to or upload a copy of the institution's anonymous reporting system.
3. Institutions that award associate degrees and higher must provide links to or upload a copy of documented reporting.
4. Institutions may upload signed letters of commitment and/or memorandum of understanding for each participating partner.

Area 2. Applicant Information

Applicant Information - In this section, institutions will provide detailed information regarding contact information for the individual responsible for the grant application. It is important to provide any changes to the institution's contact to ensure all vital information and continuity of information between PDE and the institution.

Area 3. Program Information

Project Overview - In this section, the institution will provide the project overview, including the title of the project, estimated start date (no sooner than **January 1, 2025**), estimated completion date (no later than **December 31, 2025**), estimated total project cost, and grant amount requested.

Additional Funding Priorities- In this section you will indicate if the institution's proposal meets a priority area for a Governor's 2024-25 It's On Us PA Grant by clicking the box next to the additional funding priorities.

Area 4. Narratives

Proposal Narrative - The proposal narrative addresses the institution's specific plans to implement the proposed programs. The institutions should ensure their response is detailed and provide specific examples of how the initiative will be further developed on campus and include the mentioned eligible programming options above. These should also be related to the policy recommendations of It's On Us PA, which include: Institutional data; reporting mechanisms for sexual violence; awareness and prevention training for sexual/dating violence and stalking; institutional response to sexual/dating violence and stalking; implement a memorandum of understanding with local rape crisis center and domestic violence program and provide explanation on how they will be instrumental in the execution of the proposed goals/objectives. The narrative should also address the following, institutions risk factors and needs regarding sexual violence, reporting and response; how funds will be used to address needs of the highest risk members (including male student athletes); strengths and barriers within the institutions existing prevention reporting and response systems.

Expected Outcome – In this section, the institution will tie each specific goal or objective stated in the proposal narrative section of this application to an expected outcome —what the institution hopes to see happen to show that the objective was met. The institution should state the expected outcomes in measurable terms, including baseline information and expected improvements, and explain how program impact will be assessed. Prior recipients are asked to address outcomes from prior It's On Us PA grant years and how the institution plans to build on those outcomes.

Area 5. Budget

Instruction; Purchased Professional and Technical Services; Contracted Services; Supplies and Equipment - The budget demonstrates a fiscally sound allocation of funds to successfully provide activities related directly to the **It's On Us PA** initiatives. Round amounts to the nearest whole dollar. All budgets will be reviewed to evaluate appropriateness and connection to proposed grant activities and goals.

Budget Summary

The budget demonstrates fiscally-sound allocation of funds to successfully provide activities related directly to the **It's On Us PA** initiatives. Round amounts to the nearest whole dollar. Grant funds may not be used for direct salaries, fringe benefits, or operational rates; however, funds can be used for honorariums and stipends. All budgets will be reviewed to evaluate appropriateness and connection to proposed grant activities and goals.

Budget Narrative

In this section, the institution will provide an explanation of the budget items above and how they relate to the objectives of your proposal. Ensure that the budget narrative demonstrates how funds will be used equitably for supporting the highest-risk community members.

Compliance Objectives

All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Education. All grant funds must be spent, and services performed/products received on or before **December 31, 2025**. The Pennsylvania Department of Education shall seek repayment of funds if it determines that funds were

not utilized for the stated and approved purpose. Grantees will be required to submit reports in the eGrants system on forms supplied by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Final Expenditure Reports must be submitted no later than **January 31, 2026**. Grantees are also expected to participate in Pennsylvania Department of Education evaluation research, including staff interviews and student surveys.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis by a team selected by the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education. Applications will be reviewed for:

1. **Alignment** of goals and objectives in the proposal to the goals of the Governor's It's On Us PA Program;
2. **Clarity** of narrative describing programming for which funding will be used, including details of how the proposed program will improve awareness or training, reduce or eliminate barriers to reporting, or improve data collection and reporting capacity;
3. **Improvement** of institutions' efforts to fully understand strengths and barriers within their existing prevention, reporting, and response systems through the development, use, or analysis of campus climate surveys or other data including current data reported for Clery Act compliance;
4. **Correlation** of detailed budget information with the goals and objectives of the proposal;
5. **Viability** of expected outcomes and alignment to program activities;
6. **Adaptability** of the proposal to pandemic and post-pandemic learning environments; and
7. **Accuracy** of the information submitted.

Applications that do not include all the required information as stated on the application will not be considered for funding. Applications that include more than 25% of unallowable expenses will not be reviewed or scored. All qualifying applications will be reviewed and scored.

Scoring

The following criteria will be evaluated to rank and score applications:

1. Goals and Objectives (**10 points**) – Goals and objectives of the program are clearly stated.
2. Proposal Narrative and expected program outcomes and assessment (**65 points**) – The proposal includes a detailed description of the program, fully addressing each component of the grant application. Outcomes are stated in measurable terms including baseline information and expected improvement, and there is a clear plan for assessing the impact of the program being funded through the grant.
3. Budget information (**25 points**) – Budget information is aligned to the goals of the program and is accurate and itemized using a per-unit cost and total expenditure.

Award and Disbursement

All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement with the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education (OPHE). All grant funds must be committed, and services performed by **December 31, 2025**. Funding must be spent by the end of the grant period and institutions may ask for a **no-cost extension 60 days prior to the end of the grant period. Requests made after November 1, 2025, will not be granted.**

OPHE shall seek repayment of funds if it determines that funds were not utilized for the original stated and approved purpose. All unused grant funds must be returned to OPHE with the final report.

Program Reporting and Evaluation

Upon completion of the grant, grantees will be required to submit a final report on forms supplied by OPHE. **Final reports and correlating invoices/receipts must be submitted no later than January 30, 2026.** It is highly recommended to include various individuals involved in the grant administration activities coordinate across campus to ensure everyone is aware of the program reporting and evaluation deadlines.

Program Changes

All requests for changes to the approved grant must be submitted to the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education in writing no later than **March 31, 2025**. Program changes must be approved by OPHE or the grant will be rescinded.

Technical Assistance

Contact OPHE at ra-editsonuspa@pa.gov for technical assistance or to obtain answers to questions related to the grant application. All substantive questions must be submitted by **Tuesday, October 15, 2024**. Responses will be provided in the form of an FAQ distributed to all institutions on **Friday, October 18, 2024**.

Please ensure that staffing changes are communicated to our office so your institution maintains access to the eGrants system.

The deadline for submission is **Monday, October 28, 2024**, by 11:59 PM. Applications received after this time will not be considered.