FY2020 Plan for School Resource Officer State Categorical Funding

Funding Application Instructions

The FY20 State Enacted Budget includes $1.0 million for a voluntary program to support the hiring of school resource officers at public middle and high schools across the state. School districts/schools or municipalities would receive reimbursements equal to one-half of the total position cost for each new officer hired, for a period of up to three years. This funding is only available for new school resource officer positions established on or after July 1, 2018. Schools that already employed school resource officers on or before June 30, 2018 are not eligible for the funding for existing school resource officer unless they are below the enrollment thresholds specified in statute (currently have more than 1,200 students and one or fewer school resource officers).

Please complete the assurance document to become eligible for the reimbursement. The completed document must be returned to kristen.cole@ride.ri.gov in order to be eligible for funding. Before submission for reimbursement, officers eligible for state funding must complete school resource officer training, the Basic School Resource Officer Course conducted by the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) is the preferred training course. Evidence of training must be maintained by the school district/school and be available for review at all times.

Note a sample MOU completed between the LEA and the town/city council as well as an Officer Job Description can be found on the State Education Aid website for reference. Funding will be available from the date of the application submission through the duration of the three-year period, subject to future appropriations. Applications may only be submitted until December 31, 2019 for the school year ending June 2020 and will reopen in July ahead of the 2021 school year. For communities that received SRO funding in FY 2019 and will be requesting their year two funding, please submit the assurance form and a revised budget form for the 2019-20 school year.

All requests for reimbursement should be submitted quarterly and must be submitted to kristen.cole@ride.ri.gov using the B1 form found on the State Education Aid website. Any deviation of more than ten percent from original budget estimates must be approved in advance by RIDE via written justification from the school district/school.