

Office of Highway Safety and Justice
Programs



south carolina
DEPARTMENT *of* **PUBLIC SAFETY**
PROTECT. EDUCATE. SERVE.

**2025 Body Armor Assistance
Grant Program Solicitation**

Release Date:
Applications Due:

February 7, 2025
March 14, 2025

I. Introduction

The South Carolina General Assembly has designated non-recurring state funds for the purpose of providing financial assistance to local units of government for the purchase of body armor for its law enforcement officers. The South Carolina Department of Public Safety's Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs (OHSJP) is charged with the responsibility of the administration of the state-appropriated Body Armor Assistance Grant (BAAG) Program.

II. Eligible Applicants

The BAAG Program is open to local units of government. A "local unit of government" is defined as any city, county, town, township or other political subdivision of a state. State agencies are not eligible to apply.

In addition, the following points should be noted regarding eligible applicants:

- A. Police departments, sheriffs' offices, and detention centers are not eligible to apply directly, but would be the implementing agency for the grant. A city or county would be the legal applicant/recipient and manage grant funds on behalf of the implementing department or agency.
- B. Information for the following individuals will be required on the Grant Application:
 - a. Project Director – Employee of the Implementing Agency, person involved in the daily operations of the project;
 - b. Financial Officer - City or County Finance Director;
 - c. Financial Point of Contact – Person who will be assisting the Project Director with providing necessary supporting receipts, quotes, and any other financial paperwork; and
 - d. Official Authorized to Sign - Mayor, City or County Administrator.

III. Funding Policy

BAAG funds pay for up to 100 percent of allowable vests, taxes, and shipping purchases for vests used in the ordinary course of police duty. Applications should cover eligible vest purchases from January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025. Applicants may request funds to purchase vests known to expire during the above timeframe, as well as other anticipated vest needs during this time (e.g. new hires).

For those agencies with eligible expenditures that participate in the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program, BAAG funds may be used for up to 50% of the required cash match for BVP, with appropriate documentation. Eligible expenditures are limited to body armor

purchased during the eligibility period for the BAAG Program (January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025).

IV. Distribution of Grant Funds

Eligible purchases made between January 1, 2025 and the time of award are reimbursable with appropriate supporting documentation. A subgrantee's remaining award funds for future eligible purchases may be advanced. Information regarding Requests For Payment (RFPs) will be provided at the time of award.

V. Matching Requirement

No match is required.

VI. Guidelines for the Use of Grant Funds

A. Allowable Expenses:

Body armor purchased with BAAG funds may be purchased at any threat level, make, or model, from any distributor or manufacturer, as long as the vests have been tested and found to comply with NIJ ballistic or stab standards. In addition, all body armor purchased must be made in the United States and uniquely fitted for the officer.

Applicants may request funds to purchase vests known to expire between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025, as well as other anticipated vest needs during this time (e.g. new hires).

B. Unallowable Expenses:

BAAG funds are intended to equip officers for their primary, daily vest needs. Under this solicitation, additional vests used for special emergency response teams must be purchased with other funding sources.

VII. Suspension or Termination of Funding

The OHSJP may suspend (in whole or in part), terminate funding for, or impose another sanction on a subgrantee for any of the following reasons:

- A. Failure to adhere to the standard terms and conditions or special conditions.
- B. Implementing substantial program changes to the extent that, if submitted originally, the application would not have been approved for funding.
- C. Failure to submit reports (programmatic and/or financial) in a timely manner.
- D. Filing a false certification in this application or other report or document.

VIII. Application and Funding Review Process

All applications will be reviewed carefully and equally by the Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs staff before funding recommendations are made to the South Carolina Public Safety Coordinating Council. **LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

IX. Additional Requirements/Attachments

- A. Please be aware that all applicants must have a written Mandatory Wear Policy in place for all uniformed officers. There are no requirements regarding the nature of the policy other than it being a Mandatory Wear Policy for all uniformed officers while on duty. Applicants must submit a copy of the agency's policy, signed by the head of the agency, as part of its official application. This should be uploaded into the Documents tab of the *SCDPS Grants* grant application.
- B. Applicants must submit a current list of officers' names, and the expiration dates of their body armor.
- C. If the applicant's request includes new vests projected to be needed for new hires, please include documentation to support the request. Please upload quotes if requesting funds for future vest purchases.
- D. All documentation for vests previously purchased (on or after January 1, 2025) for which reimbursement will be requested (e.g. purchase orders, invoices, etc.).
- E. For those agencies with eligible expenditures that participate in the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program, BAAG funds may be used for up to 50% of the required cash match for BVP, with appropriate documentation. Please upload supporting documentation into the Documents tab if requesting BVP cash match.

X. Notification Process

Applicants will be notified in writing by the OHSJP whether their application has been approved or denied for funding. Notices of these decisions are tentatively scheduled for publication in the summer of 2025.

XI. Application Process-SCDPS Grants

The grant application must be completed using the OHSJP's legacy web-based grants management system, **SCDPS Grants**. This can be accessed at <https://www.scdpsgrants.com/>, as well as through the South Carolina Department of Public Safety's website at <http://www.scdps.sc.gov/ohsjp/>.

IMPORTANT NOTE: NEW users must submit their subgrantee user registration requests no later than **Friday, February 28, 2025.**

The application must be fully complete and submitted via *SCDPS Grants* prior to the application deadline, which is **Friday, March 14, 2025**. Supporting documents, including, but not limited to, mandatory wear policy, body armor expiration date list, purchase orders/invoices, quotes, and other information relating to the application may be uploaded as attachments to the application on *SCDPS Grants*.

Please be aware that *SCDPS Grants* will allow application submissions until 11:59 PM on the application due date. However, staff will not be available to assist with application questions after 5:00 PM.

For questions, you may contact Amy Kingston at AmyKingston@scdps.gov or (803) 896-4742.

Grant Application Check List

The following checklist will assist the applicant in providing all required information in **SCDPS Grants**.

Funding Request –

- Proposed expenditures adhere to application guidelines above
- Items broken down by type (i.e. vest type, carrier, BVP, etc.)
- Taxes and shipping are listed as separate line items from vests

Additional Information –

- The total number of certified officers in the agency is provided and is accurate as of the date of the submission

- The total number of officers whose vests have been replaced during the eligibility period of January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025, but prior to application submission, is provided and supported by the list the applicant has uploaded into the Documents tab
 - Invoices and checks (if applicable) have been provided

- The total number of officers whose vests are due for replacement during the eligibility period of January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025 is provided and supported by the list the applicant has uploaded into the Documents tab

- Quote(s) has been provided

- The anticipated number of new vest purchases during the eligibility period of January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025 for vacancies or new hires is provided and justified by supporting documentation the applicant has uploaded into the Documents tab. The total number of replacement vests documented above, and the number of vests for new hires, should be equal to the total number requested in the Funding Request tab.

- Indicate whether the applicant participates in the BVP program or is receiving other grant funds for vest purchases during the eligibility period. If requesting BAAG funds for cash match, ensure supporting documentation is uploaded into the Documents tab.
 - BVP award information, current balance, and any purchase requests submitted during the eligible period up to application submission has been provided.

Other Relevant Requirements –

- The name, title, address, phone, and email information must be completed on the online application for the Project Director, Financial Officer, and Official Authorized to Sign. Signatures will only be required once a grant award is made. These should be three **separate** individuals.

- Ensure Documents tab contains the following:
 - Signed Mandatory Wear Policy
 - List of Officers to include vest expiration dates, new hires, and vacancies
 - Quotes for future vest purchases
 - Purchase orders, invoices, and checks for previous vest purchases made on or after January 1, 2025.