

FY 2025 Stronger Connections Grant End Date FAQ – Update May 2025

On May 23, ISBE announced that funding for the fiscal year 2025 Stronger Connections Grant will remain available until Sept. 30, 2026. Grantees may continue to obligate allotted funds on approved/allowable grant activities through this date. Please find responses to two anticipated questions below.

Is there anything grantees need to do to take advantage of this end date?

- At this time, grantees do not need to do anything, but action may be required in the future. The current application in the IWAS system is updated to extend the end date through June 30, 2026. If funds remain unexpended at that time, a Continuation Application will be available in IWAS for the remainder of the project period (July 1, 2026, through Sept. 30, 2026).
- Grantees may/should submit amended applications, as needed, for changes in proposed expenditures and/or activities. The last date to submit an amendment will be May 31, 2026, which is 30 days before the application's end date of June 30, 2026.
- **IMPORTANT:** Grantees that currently have an amendment in progress will need to be sure they save the Applicant Information Page before submitting the application. This step will ensure that the extended date is applied to the application.

Is the amount of my allotment changing and/or being renewed?

- **No.** Grantees' allotments remain the same, regardless of the amount that has already been expended. Grantees' FY 2025 allotment remains available through Sept. 30, 2026 (i.e., grantees will not receive a second/additional allotment for FY 2026).

Please note that the extension of the project end date has resulted in amended grant award and end date language on the following pages:

- Overview
- Applicant Information
- GATA Pages – Notice of State Award – NOSA Grant Information
- GATA Pages – Uniform Grant Agreement – UGA Parts One, Two, and Three

If you have any additional questions about this communication, please send a message to strongerconnections@isbe.net.