



School Maintenance Project Grant FAQ

Last updated Sept. 25, 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

What projects are approvable for SMPG?

School Maintenance Project Grant (SMPG) funds are for the maintenance or upkeep of buildings or structures for educational purposes. Ongoing operational costs, including in-house labor for SMPG projects not contracted out, cannot be included for any School Maintenance Project Grant. If you have a specific question about your project, please contact smpg@isbe.net.

What is the maximum grant amount I can get?

The SMPG is a dollar-for-dollar state matching grant program that will provide awards up to \$50,000 to grantees. There is no limit to the cost of a project; however, grant awards shall not exceed \$50,000 per grant award, and applicants shall provide a match from local funds equal to the grant amount requested.

Where can I find instructions for completing the application, quarterly reports, and final expenditure report?

They can be found in [IWAS](#) once logged into the SMPG system. They are also linked under the Application Materials and Forms dropdown on the [ISBE School Maintenance Project Grant webpage](#).

Can I apply for a project that is already in progress?

No. An applicant must not obligate funds or begin work on any of the projects listed on the application prior to submission of the application in [IWAS](#).

How long do I have to complete the project(s)?

Each fiscal year grant cycle is two years long. All project activities must be expended or legally obligated within two years of disbursement by the state. If funds have been obligated by the grantee but not fully expended two years after disbursement, 90 calendar days will be allowed to liquidate all obligations.

My applying entity wants to apply for a project on a leased building. Is that an option?

Yes. Per [105 ILCS 230/5-100](#), SMPG projects must be completed on publicly owned property. Therefore, it's acceptable to use the grant funds on buildings or lots leased from school districts or other public entities, just not on buildings leased from a private owner.

If I use SMPG funds on a building that is leased from a district, can it apply for SMPG, too?

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Yes. Both entities can access SMPG funds for use on the same building, but not for the same work. (They must be separate projects.) Also, the source of matching funds must come from the entity applying and receiving the grant.

When will I receive the SMPG disbursement?

SMPG funds are disbursed upfront. You will be notified via email when your application is accepted. You will receive the disbursement within a few weeks of that notification. You can check what you are receiving by logging in on the [Illinois State Comptroller Vendor Payments webpage](#).

Can I apply for the same project as last year?

Yes, but only if 1) the project can be broken up into phases or components or 2) last year's project did not happen. In either case, the previous fiscal year SMPG must be closed out and an approved final report must be filed in [IWAS](#). Contact smpeg@isbe.net for assistance.

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Contact Alexandria Alvey in the School Business Services Department at SMPG@isbe.net or 217-785-8779 if you have questions.