

# HVAC INDOOR AIR QUALITY GRANT PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**October 4, 2023**

**Connecticut** 

# Background

- **Pandemic exposed a significant need to have modernized air filtration units in schools.**
- **Legislation was passed in 2022 to create and fund the program.**
- **Further legislation was passed in 2023 to add additional funds.**
- **First round of grants was announced in Spring 2023.**
- **This is the second round; we anticipate a third round in FY 2025.**

# HVAC Funding Summary

	Fiscal Year	Bonding	ARPA	Total Bonding + ARPA
Public Act 22-118	2023	\$75,000,000.00	\$75,000,000.00	\$150,000,000.00
Public Act 23-205	2024	\$150,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000,000.00
Public Act 23-205	2025	\$150,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$375,000,000.00</b>	<b>\$75,000,000.00</b>	<b>\$450,000,000.00</b>

# HVAC Funding: First Round

	Fiscal Year	Bonding	ARPA	Total Bonding + ARPA
Public Act 22-118	2023	\$75,000,000.00	\$75,000,000.00	\$150,000,000.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Round of Grants		\$56,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$56,000,000.00
	<b>2023 FUNDING CARRIED FORWARD</b>	\$19,000,000.00	\$75,000,000.00	<b>\$94,000,000.00</b>

# HVAC Funding: Second Round

	Bonding	ARPA	Total Bonding + ARPA
FY 23 CF Funds	\$19,000,000.00	\$75,000,000.00	\$94,000,000.00
FY 24 Funds	\$150,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000,000.00
FY 25 Funds	N/A	N/A	N/A
	\$169,000,000.00	\$75,000,000.00	\$244,000,000.00

# Application Information

- **Eligible applicants include\*:**
  - Local Board of Education, or
  - Regional Board of Education, or
  - Regional Education Service Center (RESC).

\*Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-265r

- **Applications should address:**
  - No mechanical system for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
  - Limited mechanical capability for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
  - Other improvements to indoor air quality



# Out-of-Scope Activities

- **Disallowed Costs**

- Routine maintenance and cleaning of the HVAC system
- Work eligible for a grant under Chapter 173
- Work on a facility not located within a public-school building

- **Ineligible Technologies & Equipment**

- DAS will not grant funds to projects or technology that is not supported by peer-reviewed scientific evidence.

# Eligible Project Timelines

- Applicants can submit for projects that were already completed or projects that will be completed in the future. Despite the timeframe of the project, all applications must include all required documents.
- Pursuant to C.G.S. § 10-265r, projects must be completed by the end of the next calendar year following the year of grant commitment.



# Funding Source Determination

- **DAS will determine the funding source (Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund or State Bond Funds) for each grant award based on several criteria.**
- **Those criteria may include the following:**
  - Local Share Funding Source
  - Retroactive or New Project
  - Project Timeline indicated in the application
  - Risk Assessment
- **Based on our determination, recipients of federal funds will have additional terms and conditions and may be the subject of federal audit.**

# Cost Share / Matching

- Per CGS, eligible applicants must provide proof of their local share.
- Reimbursement rates are the same as the priority list and nonpriority list.
- DAS calculates these rates annually. Applicants will use the “General Construction” rate in effect on the date their application is submitted.
- A link to the [reimbursement rates](#) as well as an interactive Excel Spreadsheet to calculate rates can be found on the [School Construction State Reimbursement Percentages](#) webpage.

# Changes from the first round

- Applicants may use federal funds for their local share
- Funding Authorization Letter
- Risk Assessment Questionnaire
- Terms and Conditions
- Quarterly financial and programmatic reporting



# Applying Federal Funds to Local Share

Round	Total Project Cost	Federal funds applied prior to passage of PA 23-204	Remaining after federal funds	Match percent	State reimbursement amount	Federal funds applied after passage of PA 23-204	Local match amount	
<b>Round One</b> (FY 23 application and awards)	\$ 100.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 80.00	50%	\$ 40.00	\$ -	\$ 40.00	Prior to passage of PA 23-204, the federal funds were applied to the total project cost before the state and local share were calculated.
<b>Round Two</b> (current FY 24 application and awards)	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	50%	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00	After passage of PA 23-204, the applicant is allowed to use the federal funds toward their local match amount.

# Application Requirements

- **Project Costs**
- **Cost Estimate**
- **Local Funding Authorization Letter**
- **Resolution 1 – Authorizes the application**
- **Resolution 2 – Creates a Project Building Committee**
- **Resolution 3 – Approves the preparation of drawings for the project**
- **Education Specifications**
- **Approval of Educational Specifications by the Board of Education**
- **Risk Assessment Questionnaire**

# Application Evaluation: Mandatory Criteria

- **Each application will be reviewed and evaluated for meeting the 11 required items (please reference Appendix B for the Application Evaluation Rubric):**
  - Project Cost
  - Cost Estimate
  - Resolutions 1, 2, & 3
  - Educational Specifications
  - Approval of Educational Specifications
  - Risk Assessment
  - Addresses Indoor Air Quality issues using peer-reviewed systems
  - Application does not include out of scope activities

# Application Evaluation: Scored Criteria

- **If DAS receives more applications than available funding, each application will also be evaluated for the seven scored items (please reference Appendix B for the Application Evaluation Rubric):**
  - Age of existing HVAC System
  - Condition of existing HVAC System
  - Current air quality issues at the school
  - Existing condition of the school building
  - District master plan age
  - Maintenance records of existing equipment to be replaced
  - A contract or plans for the routine maintenance of the new HVAC system

# Post Grant Award

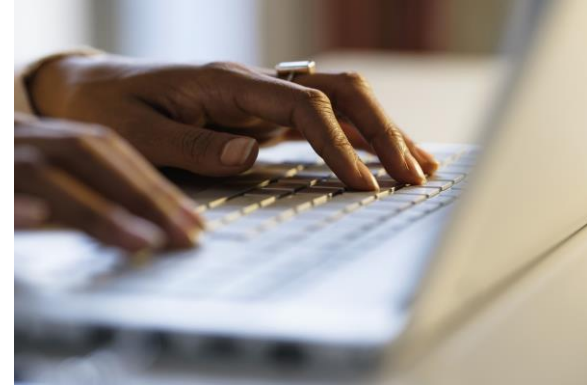
- **Notice of Grant Award**
- **Terms and Conditions**
- **Monitoring and Reporting**
- **Payment Request – Reimbursement for incurred expenditures**





# Audit

- **State Audit Requirements**
  - DAS Audit Team
  - Auditors of Public Accounts
- **Federal Audit Requirements**
  - Recipients of ARPA funds
  - Review of records relevant to project completion, and
  - Compliance with 2 CFR 200 Procurement Requirements



# Additional Questions?

**Frequently asked questions will be updated on a regular basis and can be accessed on the DAS HVAC Grant Program website under FAQs.**

**[ct.gov/hvacgrants](https://ct.gov/hvacgrants)**

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Question:**

**Can I apply for a project again, even if I already applied in the first round?**

## **Answer:**

**Yes. We understand the importance of this program to improve IAQ in school districts. For districts that were declined in the first round, we highly encourage you to submit an updated application. Districts cannot resubmit an application for a project that already received funding in the first round.**

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Question:**

**How do superintendents get CORE-CT access?**

## **Answer:**

**Each municipality should have a CORE-CT administrator (usually the town clerk or an administrator in the town office). This administrator can create user accounts. If you don't know who your municipal CORE administrator is, please get in touch with DAS at [DAS.GrantsAdministration@ct.gov](mailto:DAS.GrantsAdministration@ct.gov).**

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Question:

**Can I include two projects in one set of resolutions?**

## Answer:

**Yes, you can include the two projects in one set of resolutions, but each resolution must include each school's name, the specific type of project, and the project name. For example, if a district wants to replace a boiler at School A and a condenser at School B, then the three required resolutions must each include both school names, both project names, and must specify the type of project at each school. As a reminder, resolutions must be signed, dated, and certified by the town clerk.**

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Question:**

**What is the maximum amount I can apply for?**

## **Answer:**

**There is no maximum amount a district can apply for. In the first round of awards, DAS awarded grants for projects with costs as low as \$1,000 to as high as \$16 million.**

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Question:

**Are air filters or air purifiers allowable under the grant program?**

## Answer:

**Replacement of air filters is considered routine maintenance and is not eligible under this program. Augmenting of an HVAC system to allow for more comprehensive filtering may be considered eligible under the program.**

**Air purifiers fall into the category of “other improvements to indoor air quality” allowable in the statute. Funds will not be awarded for grants that include filtration or air purification systems that use technology that has not been supported by peer-reviewed scientific evidence.**

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Question:

How does the reimbursement process work?

## Answer:

Awardees will be provided a notice of grant award. In the notice of grant award, the contract ID will be listed. Awardees will submit for reimbursement in CORE-CT using the contract ID and will attach the [FORM DAS-1046S](#), Summary of Invoices for Payment Request.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Question:**

**What deadlines are applicable to the program?**

## **Answer:**

**Applicants must submit their applications by December 31, 2023. DAS anticipates making grant commitments in Spring 2024. Per CGS, awardees have until the end of the calendar year following grant commitment to complete their projects. This means that awardees will have until December 31, 2025 to complete their projects.**

# Details

- **Application Deadline**

**December 31, 2023  
5:00 PM ET**

- **Apply through the Core-CT system**



# Contact

Questions may be submitted in writing to  
**[das.grantsadministration@ct.gov](mailto:das.grantsadministration@ct.gov)**

All information related to the HVAC Grant Program  
can be found at

**[ct.gov/hvacgrants](http://ct.gov/hvacgrants)**