



April 4, 2025

To: Karen Fairley, Director, Center for Safer Schools

From: Alexis Schauss, Chief Financial Officer 

**Status of the Center for Safer Schools US Department of Justice Grants**

Thank you for your continued partnership and cooperation in transitioning the Center for Safer Schools (CFSS) from the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to the State Bureau of Investigations (SBI). The transition has several parts, and the primary effort has been focused on completing the State budget certification, transferring the CFSS personnel to SBI, managing the PSU grants<sup>1</sup> and completing the transfer of fiscal year to date expenditures.

DPI and SBI finance offices are now focused on the US Department of Justice (USDOJ) grants awarded to CFSS. The CFSS is currently the program administrator of the following three USDOJ grants:

Grant Number	Title	Remaining Funds as of 1/31/2025	Expiration Date
2019-YS-BX-0047	BJA FY 19 STOP School Violence Technology and Threat Assessment Solutions for Safer Schools Program	\$209,224.74	12/31/2024
2019-YS-BX-0100	BJA-STOP School Violence (NC Say Something)	\$499,742.69	6/30/2025
15PBJA-22_GG-04677	STOP-NC School Safety Program 2022	\$1,357,715.87	9/30/2025

With the legislated required transfer for CFSS to SBI, DPI cannot continue to be the responsible party for these grants, including the reporting and completion of required activity. DPI received correspondence from a USDOJ grant manager in December 2024 indicating that the grant transfer from one entity to another could be initiated via official memorandum from DPI requesting de-obligation with a corresponding official memorandum from SBI stating willingness to accept the awards.

DPI financial staff, CFSS Director and SBI chief financial officer had a follow up conversation with the USDOJ to understand the details of transferring these grants. During this conversation, it became apparent that the ability or willingness of USDOJ to transfer the grants to SBI was different than originally understood. USDOJ stated that Grant 2019-YS-BX-0100 would not be eligible to be transferred and stated that DPI and SBI could request Grant 15PBJA-22\_GG-04677

<sup>1</sup> As outlined in the memo from Alexis Schauss, CFO, NCDPI to Marsha Overby, CFO, SBI, dated February 29, 2025

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be transferred, but stated that it would require requesting a no cost extension request for up to 18 months to cover the indeterminable period of time it could take to draft, approve, and process the official transfer at the federal level.

Based on this information, DPI is moving forward with closing out the grants without a request for extension, additional federal reimbursement, or ultimate transfer of federal balances to SBI. The following outlines the actions that will accomplish accurate and timely federal closeout, and that DPI also believes could prevent an abrupt end to important planned grant activities that current grant-funded staff are overseeing.

**Grant 2019-YS-BX-0047**

This grant expired 12/31/2024, therefore DPI and CFSS did not include this grant in the transfer request and had begun closeout procedures.

CFSS is required to complete the closeout performance report and must submit to DPI by **April 18, 2025**. This is a USDOJ requirement before the grant can be closed.

DPI will submit the final report to USDOJ on behalf of CFSS, and coordinate with the USDOJ grant manager to address any questions or concerns by the April 30, 2025, deadline.

**Grants 2019-YS-BX-0100 and 15PBJA-22\_GG-04677**

CFSS is required to complete the closeout performance reports for January 2025 and should submit to DPI by **April 18, 2025**. This is a USDOJ requirement before the grants can be closed.

DPI will submit an official memorandum to USDOJ to request closure of these grants and will submit any required financial closeout reports within the timeframe to be determined by USDOJ.

We understand that there are 3 to 5 individuals who are currently paid from these grants, and that you may want to continue their employment to complete the activities of these grants. We encourage you to work with Marsha Overby, CFO, to use budget flexibility to utilize your state operating budget, the year-to-date lapse salary from vacancies, and the potential lapse salary from the four new positions that CFSS received as part of the transition.

Thank you for your attention to the items that need to be completed for a smooth closeout of these grants.

c: Maria Pitre-Martin, Deputy State Superintendent, DPI  
Roger "Chip" Hawley, Director, SBI  
Marsha Overby, Chief Financial Officer, SBI  
Beth Day, Senior Director, Agency Financial Services, DPI  
Sue Kearney, Controller, Agency Financial Services, DPI  
Jessica Mapes, Manager, Accounting Reporting and Controls, DPI