



Safe and Secure Courthouse Initiative Grant Program
Information and Award Guidelines
July 12, 2024

During the 2024 Minnesota Legislative Session, Chief Justice Hudson initiated and the 2024 Legislature funded, the third installation of grant funds to support safety and security as part of the Safe and Secure Courthouse Initiative Grant Program. Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea established the program in 2017 for the distribution of grants to government entities responsible for providing or maintaining a safe and secure courthouse or other facility where court proceedings are held.

The Safe and Secure Courthouse Grant Advisory Panel, led by Court of Appeals Judge Cochran, is responsible for assisting the Chief Justice in the administration of the \$500,000 appropriated for this initiative. It is the Advisory Panel’s intent that the allocated funds be distributed to as many projects as possible. Funding priority will be given to counties with the greatest need.

The Advisory Panel is comprised of the following representatives:

Profession	Members
Chair	Court of Appeals Judge Jeanne Cochran
County Attorney	Molly Hicken, Cook County Shane Baker, Kandiyohi County
County Commissioner	David Ebinger, Clay County Brad Milbrath, Waseca County
County Sheriff	Sheriff Bryan Welk, Cass County Deputy Sheriff Jeremy Brennan, Blue Earth County
Minnesota State Bar Association	Judge Richard Kyle, Jr., Ramsey County Paige Orcutt, City of Duluth
Public Defender	Layne Chiodo, Ninth Judicial District John Reimer, Second Judicial District
Judicial Branch	Jason Sturgis, Fourth Judicial District Vanessa Jeske, First Judicial District Jeff Shorba, State Court Administrator

The National Center for State Courts, a leading expert on courthouse security, has established best practices for court building security – guidelines describing the security measures that should be in place with respect to a comprehensive set of topics covering court buildings and court operations. Grant award applicants are urged to review this document at the following link: [National Center for State Courts: Steps to Best Practices for Court Building Security](#) (2022).

Award Criteria

In awarding the funds, priority will be given to projects that demonstrate a strong commitment on the part of leadership in each court building to the fundamentals of courthouse security and a strong desire to put in place effective measures in the pursuit of sound courthouse security. Projects that benefit multiple counties are encouraged.

The project should begin the process of improving courthouse security or implement an essential step to move toward an effective level of security.

Justice partners should have shown a commitment to improve courthouse security.

The applicant should demonstrate an on-going commitment to the improvement of courthouse security.

The project must have a defined, realistic plan to meet the project goals, and ongoing activities. The project must be completed by June 30, 2026.

Applications will be reviewed and scored by the Safe and Secure Courthouse Grant Advisory Panel. Questions one through six of the application will be rated from 0 – 20 (See scorecard evaluation instructions). Questions seven through ten will provide the Advisory Panel with additional background information needed to make an informed decision on distribution of grant funds.

Additional Requirements

The application must be authorized by a county board and must demonstrate a 50% cash or in-kind match to the amount requested in the application. Cash match is the direct outlay of funds by the grantee to support the project. In-kind match consists of contributions of time and/or services of current staff members or new employees, building structures, land, equipment, materials, space, or supplies provided to the project by the grantee or others on behalf of the grantee working directly on the project. Past in-kind services on a project will not be eligible to be included in the 50% local match requirement. In addition, the project itself must represent a new investment or the upgrade or replacement of existing security equipment; applicants cannot request funding for a project that is already completed or for personnel. If applicable, the application must show that resources will be available for any on-going costs associated with the award.

Once an award is granted, the recipient must sign an agreement and set up the appropriate budgets for the approved funds. The Minnesota Judicial Branch State Court Administrator's Office will coordinate the payment of funds to the agency.

The recipient will be responsible for submitting a final report to the State Court Administrator showing project details and the amount of actual expenditures. The final report and expenditures must be completed by August 30, 2026.

Application Submission and Deadline

The application should be transmitted electronically to Jennifer Super, State Court Administration at Jennifer.Super@courts.state.mn.us. Electronic signatures will be accepted.

The application must be received by Jennifer Super on or before August 26, 2024.

Timelines for Award Process and Distribution of Funds

The award Schedule is:

July 12, 2024	Application and fund details are available through the Judicial Branch website.
August 26, 2024	Application due date to be eligible for an award.
October 2024	Advisory members review applications
November 2024	Advisory panel completes final review and scores all applications.
November 2024	Advisory Panel Chair Judge Cochran completes final approval of awards.
November-December 2024	Agreement signed and awards sent to recipients.

Contact Information

Any questions about the application process can be submitted to Jennifer Super at Jennifer.Super@courts.state.mn.us or (651) 215-9436.