



School Counselor Corps Grant (SCCG) Tuition Stipend/Reimbursement Guidelines

Pursuant to CRS 22-91-104 education providers can submit to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) a plan for the use of Colorado School Counselor Corps grant funds, including the extent to which the grant money will be used to increase the number of school counselors at SCCG recipient schools by providing tuition stipend or reimbursement for a Masters in School Counseling.

Rationale

In response to the shortage of (or difficulty in finding) qualified and professionally-licensed school counselors, SCCG program staff has prepared the following as guidance for SCCG grantees to meet the grant requirements for increasing school-based counseling services, ultimately reducing the student to school counselor ratio. For many school counseling candidates, the master of arts degree requirement is a financial burden and barrier to enrollment, further complicated in rural areas. Given the current challenges of finding qualified school counselors, SCCG program staff will approve tuition stipends or reimbursement for personnel hired with grant funds to obtain school counseling licensure coursework.

Guidelines:

- An SCCG awarded education provider can spend no more than \$30,000 on tuition reimbursement over the four year span of the grant.
 - An SCCG awarded education provider can decide how much of their yearly allocated budget can be allocated toward tuition stipend/reimbursement.
- The professional receiving the SCCG tuition stipend/reimbursement must be currently hired under SCCG with appropriate CDE license. License information is [here](#).
- Funds can pay for tuition and book expenses towards a Masters in School Counseling (MSC) only or a certificate in School Counseling.
 - Undergraduate degree expenses will not be reimbursed.
 - Room and board will not be reimbursed.
 - Any other fees associated with obtaining a MSC (parking at the university, school supplies, travel etc) will not be reimbursed.
- Funds can only be used to pay for coursework taken during the fiscal year stipend/reimbursement is called out on a SCCG budget. No previous coursework will be reimbursed.
- Awarded education providers must fill out the SCCG Tuition Stipend/Reimbursement Assurances each year to be eligible. Form found [here](#).
- All funds for tuition stipend/reimbursement must be spelled out on an approved budget under "Instructional Support" before stipend/reimbursement can be distributed.
- Education providers can create internal guidelines and disburse funds through their own finance and HR departments.

For further information or questions please contact SCCG program support at:

Brooke Morgan-Mauro, morgan_b@cde.state.co.us

Jennicca Mabe, mabe_j@cde.state.co.us