

FY 2025 | Community Grant Application
Deadline April 30, 2026
3:30 P.M.



Organization Name: Coalition for Public Safety Training in Schools, Inc.
Executive Director/Officer William Taylor
Fiscal Sponsor Name: N/A
Mailing Address 6316 Oxon Hill Rd, #815, Oxon Hill, MD 20745
Phone Number 240-508-4203 Email info@cpsts.org
Federal ID# 46-4531506
Incorporation Date 12/16/2013 501 (c) (3) Registration Date 7/11/2014
Project Title Driver's Ed for Returning Citizens
Project Location Prince George's County, MD

CERTIFICATION

"I certify that I have reviewed this application and that, to the best of my knowledge, all statements and figures contained herein are true, accurate, and complete. If your organization does not have a Board of Directors, please indicate "NA" on the signature line and have the Organization's Director sign.

William C. Taylor
Signature of Chief Executive Officer

April 30, 2026
Date

Print Name William Taylor Title Executive Director
Address 6316 Oxon Hill Rd, #815, Oxon Hill, MD 20745
Phone 240-508-4203 Email wtaylor@cpsts.org

Provide the following information about your clients based on your most recent data. Information current as of (date) March 31, 2026

RESIDENCE OF CLIENTS SERVED (*Preference will be given to agencies serving Bladensburg residents*)

Town of Bladensburg	<u>30</u>
Prince Georges County	<u>689</u>
Port Towns (Edmonston, Cottage City, Colmar Manor)	<u>1</u>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - Provide a brief summary of your project and organization. Please include the following: the project purpose, the number of people in **the Town of Bladensburg** to be served, and how the Town grant funds will be used.

Founded in December 2013, the Coalition for Public Safety Training in Schools, Inc. (CPSTS) is a charitable nonprofit with the mission to educate, advocate, and foster the development of Public Safety and career technical training in schools and support workforce development for the benefit of the local community and society. CPSTS's goals are to provide exposure and technical training opportunities necessary for County youth and returning citizens to obtain gainful employment. CPSTS targets returning citizens and youth attending middle and high school, especially those considered to be at risk, low-income, or from underserved communities. The objective of CPSTS is to train youth for employment in Public Safety and technical careers.

Since its founding, CPSTS has provided over 1,750 driver education scholarships to help students obtain the required training to obtain a Maryland driver's license. In October 2025, CPSTS became the chosen vendor for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) to provide driver education scholarships to public school students. Because of this partnership, CPSTS will provide 780 driver education scholarships during the 2025-2026 school year. The program with PGCPS does not cover students attending private school or returning citizens.

A grant from the Town of Bladensburg will provide the revenue necessary to offer similar support to returning citizens and other County residents in Bladensburg who are not enrolled in PGCPS.

PROGRAM INFORMATION - Describe the overall or general purpose of your agency and how it serves the residents of Bladensburg.

Through a partnership with 123-ABC Linnel Driver Training, CPSTS offers driver education scholarships to local students. With the scholarship, students obtain driver's education required by the Motor Vehicle Administration before they are eligible to test for a driver's license. Having a driver's license makes the students better prepared to transition to work, especially considering government agencies and private employers require employees to have experience behind-the-wheel. CPSTS currently has a 99% pass rate for students who receive a driver education scholarship.

Linnel Driver Training is a top-rated driver education training school certified by the Motor Vehicle Administration pursuant to COMAR Title 11, Subtitle 23. Founded in 1990, the proprietors bring over 35 years of experience to the business. Linnel Driver Training offers the basic 36-hour Driver Education Course to help first-time students prepare for the written test offered at the Motor Vehicle Administration. Linnel Driver Training offers small-to-medium classrooms which allows for direct teacher-to-student contact. Instructors provide extra effort to help students succeed and have the maximum driver education experience. The Linnel Driver Training philosophy is to provide the best learning experience by offering professional instruction with dedicated instructors in a positive learning environment. The owner of Linnel Driver Training, Linwood Nelson, also serves as a volunteer director on the CPSTS Board of Directors. The costs of the driver education course is within the acceptable range of prices in Maryland but are lower than those charged by other approved businesses. The cost of \$575 per student.

CPSTS also re-established its educational and informational programs regarding Public Safety. In May 2026, CPSTS, in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Division of the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, will host its first Public Safety Expo. Prince George's County residents will learn about the Public Safety industry from first responders through live presentations and demonstrations. CPSTS will also provide lunch for participants.

PERFORMANCE HISTORY (Prior Grant Award Applicants Only) - If you received Town Grants last year, please evaluate the progress you have made in implementing the project. Please discuss factors that may have hindered your progress

N/A

COMMUNITY NEED/POPULATION BEING SERVED- Describe the issue or community that needs to be addressed. Provided the demographic data and geographic information used to determine the extent of the problem or the need not being addressed.

The U.S. Census Bureau has described Maryland as "poverty in the midst of plenty." According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Data Center, 12% of Maryland's children live in poverty. Approximately 39% of households are either living in poverty (10%) or are considered ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). This means they struggle to afford basic living expenses, even though some may earn above the federal poverty level, according to United For ALICE. Marylanders living in poverty face multiple barriers to ending the cycle within their families.

For most people, access to work requires transportation. The vast majority of Americans use a personal vehicle to get to work, but not everyone has access to one. A driver's license is critical to a person's ability to acquire an automobile. The Federal Reserve Board of Richmond reports that while car ownership may seem almost universal, the share of people with access to at least one car is about 40% among households with very low income in the District of Columbia area.

In Prince George's County, the poverty rate is 11.0%, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This rate is slightly higher than the state average of 9.5% but lower than the national average of 12.5%. The rate of poverty among children under 18 in Prince George's County is estimated 14%. The county's poverty rate, however, is complex because there are significant inequalities within the county. For example, some municipalities like Cottage City have poverty rates over 21%, while others like Colmar Manor have much lower rates, according to the National Collaborative for Health Equity.

Education and employment are key indicators of well-being, promoting not only economic mobility but also dignity, life satisfaction, safety, and community participation. The impact of reconnecting youth to work or school results in better physical and mental well-being, stronger social bonds, and a lower likelihood of poverty. Lower rates of disconnection correlate to less crime and result in decreased spending for social services and new revenue from increased economic participation. Disconnected youth present an opportunity for building a more robust community, workforce, and economy.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION- Please provide a detailed description of the program you are proposing. Please include the group of people you plan to serve, the expected number of participants, the activities or services you will provide, and the location of the program/project.

The requested funds will support the Driver Education Scholarship Program, and Public Safety Educational/Informational tours. The Scholarship Program covers all costs associated with the driver education training for students eligible by way of:

- Enrollment in a Fire Science Cadet, Police Explorer, or career technical education program.
- Demonstrating interest in a career/industry with underrepresented groups.
- Recipient of free/reduce meals at school.
- Demonstrating household falls at a low-income level, e.g., receives SNAP/EBT/TANF benefits.
- Enrollment at a school that receives the USDA Community Eligibility Provision meal service.
- Residence in a zip code in which at least 20% of the households have an income below the poverty level.
- Residence in a single-parent household or household with 4 or more school age children.
- Written recommendation from a public-school teacher, social worker, or administrator.
- Child of an incarcerated parent.
- Returning citizenship.

Pursuant to COMAR Title 11, Subtitle 23, students will receive 30 hours of classroom instruction from Linnell Driver Training virtually or in-person, and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel evaluation. Linnell Driver Training provides the vehicles for the behind-the-wheel evaluation. Upon successfully passing both parts of the basic 36-hour Driver Education Course, students will be certified to take the road test at the Motor Vehicle Administration to receive a Maryland driver's license.

The educational/informational tours consist of a visit with local Public Safety agency. Students participate in hands-on demonstrations from first responders and public servants and receive information about the various careers in the Public Safety industry.

METHODOLOGY- Describe the methodology (or approach) for the proposed program/project, e.g., the procedures, tasks, techniques, or tools you will use to develop the program.

CPSTS provides a framework for discipline, achievement, and self-efficacy, consistent with the Positive Youth Development model, which promotes engaging youth in their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a positive and constructive manner; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances their strengths; and, promotes positive outcomes by furnishing the support needed to build on leadership strengths. The social development framework supports the sequential influence on children and youth by their families, schools, peers, and community.

The strategies and approaches CPSTS employs are based on a well-thought-out plan of action outlining methods to secure higher wages and a higher standard of living. The programs funded by this grant will address the needs, problems, and ancillary factors that contribute to unsavory, uninviting conditions Prince George's County youth routinely face. Education, training, mentoring, leadership, social skills, and on-the-job experience are typical of the techniques imparted in the process of preparing youth to become employment-ready and successful once hired.

CPSTS offers free training to educate students and help remove barriers that precluded them from taking advantage of opportunities in the Public Safety industry. Through structured, classroom instruction, guided tours, virtual training, hands-on exercises, and other results-oriented techniques, students experienced Public Safety careers and obtained skills that would qualify them for jobs. The Driver Education Scholarship Program provides the "hard skills" necessary to qualify for employment with a Public Safety agency or in a trade.

CPSTS programs are delivered using Zoom technology in the virtual classroom environment or via in-person and hands-on instruction. The Driver Education Scholarship funds instruction based on the curriculum approved by the Motor Vehicle Administration.

CPSTS targets low-income, at-risk, and underserved students within PGCPs or through Employ Prince George's and social service agencies. The programs are also advertised via CPSTS social media and website.

CPSTS will use pre- and post-training surveys, as well as student interviews to determine the effectiveness of its programs.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND IMPACT - Please provide activities and events that your organization has held within the Town of Bladensburg and the Port Towns. Tell us about the impact of your community activities.

CPSTS has not held any events within the Town of Bladensburg or the Port Towns in recent years. CPSTS participates in community events at Bladensburg High School and when invited locally to reach the local community and bring awareness to its programs. CPSTS also attends the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association events at the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

CPSTS addresses the needs, problems, and other factors Prince George's County residents face in the employment market. The organization provides funding for low-income, at-risk, and underserved students to obtain training that is not offered in schools but is necessary to obtain gainful employment, e.g., a driver's license and mentoring. Since 2013, CPSTS has awarded over 1,750 driver education scholarships. Because of CPSTS programs, 43 students are now Firefighters/EMTs in the local area.

ORGANIZATION CAPABILITIES - Describe the organization's ability to implement the program/project

CPSTS has 12 volunteer directors, 3 employees, and one consultant dedicated to implementation of its programs and operations. The directors devote an average of 15 hours per week to CPSTS operations. The CPSTS Community Outreach Coordinator works part-time to complete administrative tasks in furtherance of CPSTS daily functions. The Coordinator also represents CPSTS at community events and meetings. CPSTS executive leadership are directly responsible for policies, management, and program implementation. All CPSTS volunteers and staff receive regular training through Non-Profit Prince George's.

The CPSTS Board of Directors includes a diverse background and experience. The Executive Director is well-regarded in the building trades and is the former chair of the State Apprenticeship Council. The Linnel Driving School provides classroom and online support of CPSTS programs with professional driving instructors. Other directors include a former member of the Prince George's Board of Education, a police officer, a college educator and administrator, and federal civil servants. The Deputy Executive Director is an accomplished attorney, parent leader, and community activist.

CPSTS works closely with the County public safety agencies and PGCPD to ensure its programs meet the necessary standards. CPSTS continues to build relationships with local trade professionals to offer students opportunities to learn about emergency management and other technical professions and trades. CPSTS continues to build capacity to deliver services and programs with integrity and skill.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS: Please attach any materials that will provide more context for your activities and events in the Town of Bladensburg and the Port Towns. *Examples include event flyers, social media posts, links to media articles, and other information on your organization.*

PROJECT BUDGET

Please see the project budget template, which includes all budget items and the total for each.

Note the funding cap of this grant is **\$2000.00**.

Budget Category	Description	Requested Amount (\$)
Personnel	(Stipends for project staff, if applicable)	
Supplies & Materials	(List project-related items such as tools, equipment, or materials)	
Contractual Services	(Payments for external services such as consultants or instructors)	
Event Expenses	(Venue rental, permits, marketing, refreshments, etc.)	
Printing & Outreach	(Flyers, posters, online ads, or other marketing materials)	
Transportation	(Mileage reimbursement or rental costs, if applicable)	
Other Costs	(Miscellaneous expenses essential to the project)	
Total Requested	(Must not exceed \$2,000)	\$ ²⁰⁰⁰ <u> </u>

PROJECT BUDGET

Budget Category	Description	Requested Amount (\$)
Personnel (Stipends for project staff, if applicable)	Wages for Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Community Outreach Coordinator, and Social/Web Manager	275
Supplies & Materials (List project-related items such as tools, equipment, or materials)		
Contractual Services (Payments for external services such as consultants or instructors)	Driver Education Scholarships (3)	1,725
Event Expenses (Venue rental, permits, marketing, refreshments, etc.)		
Printing & Outreach (Flyers, posters, online ads, or other marketing materials)		
Transportation (Mileage reimbursement or rental costs, if applicable)		
Other Costs (Miscellaneous expenses essential to the project)		
Total Requested (Must not exceed \$2,000)		2,000