Safe Streets for All Funding

Am I eligible to apply? MPOS, Counties, Cities, towns, and Transit agencies, tribal governments, and multijurisdictional groups comprised of the above are all eligible to apply for funding.

What can I use the funds for?

The SS4A program can be used to develop or update a comprehensive safety action plan, conduct planning, design, and development activities in support of an Action Plan, or carry out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan. This includes all activities, from safety analyses, policy and process changes, through and including implementation activities like transforming a roadway corridor, installing pedestrian safety enhancements, combating roadway departure crashes, and much more. To see a full list of example activities that the funding could be used for, please visit the transportation.gov website.

What is the application process?

The due date for 2023 has not been announced but it is recommended you submit the application in advance of that deadline. You are also able to upload pieces as you go, which is recommended. You must complete the grants.gov registration process before you submit an application; this process can take 2-4 weeks to complete. Even if you have used grants.gov before, it would be a good place to start in case you need to recover the account which could also take time. Information for what is needed for grants.gov can be found under Final Application Instructions: How to Apply for the SS4A Opportunity | US Department of Transportation. Although you do not have a plan yet, and therefore do not need to fill out the self-certification form, this form is a good resource for what should be in the safety action plan you will be creating.

Selecting a lead applicant:

You will need to select a lead applicant for the application. Remember that there is a difference between a joint applicant who will be part of the grant agreement and a partner/stakeholder who will just be a voice in the application and safety action plan. There is more clarification on this in the FAQs. A collaborative approach will help make your safety action plan as comprehensive as possible. Consider providing some budget for not only the lead applicant, but also your applicants. Letters of support are not required, but if you choose to include them, add them in the "other documentation" section. This would be for partners/stakeholders, those key voices in your region or community who would support your application. Consider asking your joint applicants to include their commitment to a goal of zero traffic deaths in their sign on letter.

How can I make sure my application is successful?

Read the application instructions carefully, and try to ensure that your application hits all of the minimum requirements for USDOT. It also helps to discuss how you will achieve the Action Plan components that USDOT has outlined and add any additional items you will do beyond the requirements. Try to use this funding as an opportunity to look at the bigger picture; this could mean pivoting to a Safe System Approach, making data-driven decisions, elevating considerations for non-motorized users, having a commitment to layer the equity characteristics into your data/priorities, incorporate public health, including community engagement, and more.

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Where can I get more information?

The United States Department of Transportation website is continually updated with more information on the grant application process. Visit here for the latest information. You will find:

- The Notice of Funding Opportunity

- Archived USDOT webinars with instructions and examples on how to apply. Webinar Series: Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants | US Department of Transportation

- Many potential applicants submitted questions after reviewing the NOFO; the USDOT has documented the answers and provided them for everyone. There are some great clarifications in here. SS4A Frequently Asked Questions | US Department of Transportation

- USDOT has put together a specific application template and has included a lot of resources on how to fill out the different pieces. The SS4A Application Aids section of How to Apply for the SS4A Opportunity | US Department of Transportation includes an Action Plan Grant Information Sheet, an Application Decision Flow Chart, Action Plan Components, the Action Plan Grant Application Template, SS4A Match and Cost Share Examples, Calculating Average Annual Fatality Rate, and much more.

While they will also likely not be able to help with writing the grant application, two good contacts for helping to provide you with resources would be your State DOT and your state LTAP Program.

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