

USDOT Discretionary Grants Update

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) FY 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Transportation has released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program (SS4A). The deadline for the SS4A grant application is July 10, 2023 at 5:00 pm EDT.

The program aims to improve roadway safety by significantly **reducing or eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries** through safety action plan development, and refinement and implementation focused on all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, motorists, personal conveyance and micromobility users, and commercial vehicle operators.

This program was authorized under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and will provide \$1 billion in funding for selected planning and projects this year. This update summarizes the grant opportunity. The NOFO is posted on <u>Grants.gov</u>.

Safe Streets and Roads for All Program Objectives

The grant program seeks to prioritize project proposals that do the following:

- Promote safety
- Employ low-cost, high-impact strategies that can improve safety over a wider geographic area
- Ensure equitable investment in the safety needs of underserved communities, which includes both underserved urban and rural communities
- Incorporate evidence-based project solutions and strategies
- Align with USDOT mission and strategic goals such as safety; climate change and sustainability; equity and Justice40; and workforce development, job quality and wealth creation

 Demonstrate engagement with a variety of public and private stakeholders

Eligible projects must be able to complete the full scope of funded projects within the timeframes specified in the grant agreement.

Eligible recipients include:

- Metropolitan planning organization (MPO)
- Political subdivision of a state or territory
- Federally recognized Tribal government
- Regional joint multijurisdictional application

States are not eligible applicants, but eligible applicants are encouraged to coordinate with state entities.



All applications are to be received no later than:

July 10, 2023 **5:00** p.m. EDT



Available Grants

The SS4A FY 2023 NOFO provides funding for two types of grant programs:

- **I. Planning and Demonstration Grant:** Focused on developing a holistic, well-defined strategy to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries in a locality, Tribe or region.
- **II. Implementation grants:** Focused on implementing strategies that are consistent with an existing Action Plan. An eligible applicant must have a qualifying Action Plan.

Eligible applicants may only submit one application for funding for either a Planning and Demonstration or Implementation grant.

I. PLANNING AND DEMONSTRATION GRANT

Planning and Demonstration Grant must include the following eight components:

- 1. Leadership commitment and goal setting
- 2. Planning structure
- 3. Safety analysis
- 4. Engagement and collaboration
- 5. Equity consideration
- 6. Policy and process changes
- 7. Strategy and project selection
- 8. Progress and transparency.

Selection criteria for Planning and Demonstration Grants includes 1) safety impact, 2) equity and 3) additional safety considerations. In addition, USDOT will also evaluate project cost.

Award Range: Minimum amounts for Planning and Demonstration Grants are \$100,000, with a maximum grant of up to \$10 million for a political subdivision of a state or territory, a federally recognized Tribal government, and a multijurisdictional group of entities.

Planning and Demonstration Grant application narratives may not exceed two pages and will need to be submitted via the <u>Valid Eval website</u>, a new government platform for submitting grant applications. A benefit-cost analysis is not required.

II. IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

Implementation Grants fund projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan that address roadway safety problems. Funding also supports supplemental planning and demonstration activities as well as planning, design and development activities identified in an Action Plan.

Applicants must identify the problems to be addressed, the relevant geographic locations, and the project solutions and strategies they plan to implement, based on their Action Plan or other established plan.

There are four main selection criteria for Implementation Grants:

- 1. Safety Impact
- 2. Equity, engagement and collaboration
- 3. Effective practices and strategies
- 4. Other USDOT strategic goals
- 5. Additional safety context (only if applying for supplemental planning and/or demonstration activities)

Award Range: Implementation Grants will have a minimum award of \$2.5 million and a maximum award of \$25 million. The USDOT reserves the right to make Implementation Grant awards less than the total amount requested by the applicant.

The Implementation Grant narrative may not exceed 12 pages in length. Cover pages, table of contents, Self-Certification Eligibility Worksheets, and budget sections do not count towards the 12-page limit. A benefit-cost analysis is not required. Implementation Grants will need to be submitted via the Valid Eval website.

HDR's Infrastructure Finance and grant writing professionals stand by ready to support project sponsors applying for funding from the SS4A program.

If you need any assistance or have questions, please contact:

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