

GRANT ALERT

February 27, 2024

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

DEADLINES	PROGRAM NAME & LINK
<p>Deadline 1: Thursday, April 4, 2024, 5:00 p.m. EST</p> <p>Deadline 2: Thursday, May 16, 2024, 5:00 p.m. EST (sole deadline for Implementation Grants)</p> <p>Deadline 3: Thursday, August 29, 2024, 5:00 p.m. EST</p> <p><i>Please see the Project Timeframe section for more information</i> <i>(Submitting agencies must complete the Grants.gov registration process before submitting the final application; the process usually takes 2-4 weeks to complete.)</i></p>	<p>Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program US Department of Transportation</p>
DESCRIPTION	
<p>The program provides discretionary grants to support planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation, personal conveyance, micro-mobility users, motorists, and commercial vehicle operators. The program provides funding to develop the tools to help strengthen a community’s approach to roadway safety and save lives and is designed to meet the needs of diverse local, Tribal, and regional communities that differ dramatically in size, location, and experience administering Federal funding.</p> <p>What’s New this Round?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification that Tribal Transportation Program and Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funds may be used as non-Federal match. • Planning and Demonstration Grants had the following substantive changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The NOFO includes three deadlines: April 4, May 16, and August 29. Applications received on or before each deadline will be reviewed and evaluated separately from applications received at other deadlines. ○ The NOFO allows an applicant to reapply if not selected if the application is received by the last Planning and Demonstration Grant deadline of August 29. ○ The NOFO permits up to three pages of narrative to respond to the Additional Safety Context selection criterion if the funding requested is over \$1 million. ○ The Additional Safety Context selection criterion was modified for applications with demonstration activities. ○ New award selection consideration for applicants that have a fatality rate of 17.0 fatalities per 100,000 persons or greater. • Implementation Grants had the following substantive changes: 	

- Funds required for project or strategy-level planning, design, and development activities to be directly connected to the completion of projects and strategies funded through an Implementation Grant.
- The NOFO allows pre-application submission and review of a potential applicant’s Self-Certification Eligibility Worksheet to affirm eligibility for an Implementation Grant. Complete pre-application submissions must be received by April 17.
- The NOFO permits up to two additional pages for an application’s narrative to respond to the Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities selection criterion.
- The NOFO has minor modifications to the selection criteria Safety Impact; Equity, Engagement, and Collaboration; Effective Practices and Strategies; Other DOT Strategic Goals; and Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities.
- New award selection considerations for applicants with a finalized comprehensive safety action plan (i.e., goes beyond a qualifying plan and meets all the components in Table 1), and applicants with a killed and serious injury per \$1 million in Federal funding rate that is high compared to other Highly Rated applications.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants

- Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs).
- Political subdivision of a State or territory
- Federally recognized Tribal government
- Multijurisdictional group of entities described in any of the aforementioned three types of entities.

An eligible applicant for an Implementation Grant must also meet at least one of the below conditions:

- Have ownership and/or maintenance responsibilities over a roadway network
- Have safety responsibilities that affect roadways
- Have agreement from the agency that has ownership and/or maintenance responsibilities for the roadway within the applicant’s jurisdiction.

Projects

Planning and Demonstration Grants

- Three activity types:
 - Develop an Action Plan
 - Conduct supplemental safety planning to enhance an Action Plan
 - Carry out demonstration activities to inform the development of, or an update to, an Action Plan.
- The three different types of activities can either be bundled together into one application, or an applicant may choose to request funding for only one of the activities. Applicants may only apply for a single grant type, but both grant types have the option to include Planning and Demonstration projects under them. The development of, or updates to, an Action Plan must be the intended result of each supplemental planning and demonstration activity.

Implementation Grants

Applicants must have an existing Action Plan to apply for Implementation Grants or have an existing plan that is substantially similar and meets the eligibility requirements of an Action Plan.

Eligible activities:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding of projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan that addresses roadway safety problems. • Funding supplemental planning and demonstration activities as well as planning, design, and development activities for projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.
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FUNDING

<p style="text-align: center;">General</p> <p>\$1 billion to be awarded for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024; USDOT has \$256,687,000 in FFY 2023 carryover funds set aside for Planning and Demonstration Grants as well as certain eligible safety planning and demonstrative activities that may be included under an Implementation Grant request.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cost-Sharing</p> <p>The federal share of an SS4A grant may not exceed 80% of total eligible activity costs. Recipients are required to contribute a local matching share of no less than 20% of eligible activity costs. All local matching funds must be from non-federal sources. Due to the complexity with this particular program, it is highly recommended that State capital funding from the TIP is not used for matching the federal award.</p> <p>In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.306, grant recipients may use in-kind or cash contributions toward local match requirements. Any in-kind contributions used to fulfill the cost-share requirement for both Planning and Demonstration Grants and Implementation Grants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in accordance with the cost principles in 2 CFR § 200 Subpart E; • Include documented evidence of completion within the period of performance; and • Support execution of eligible activities
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<p style="text-align: center;">Planning and Demonstration Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected minimum award of \$100,000 and a maximum award of \$10,000,000 for all successful applicants. • USDOT expects larger amounts for MPO, an application comprised of a multijurisdictional group of entities that is regional in scope, or those who are conducting activities in a large geographic area. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Implementation Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected minimum award of \$2,500,000 and a maximum award of \$25,000,000 for all successful applicants. • USDOT reserves the right to make Implementation Grant awards less than the total amount requested by the applicant.
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- UDOT will consider applications with funding requests under the expected minimum award amount.
- USDOT reserves the right to make Planning and Demonstration Grant awards less than the total amount requested by the applicant.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Planning and Demonstration Grants

Selection Criteria:

1. Safety Impact
2. Equity
3. Additional Safety Context

Additional Considerations:

- Budget costs

Award Considerations:

- High Fatality Rates – activities which will significantly reduce fatalities and serious injuries the Department may prioritize SS4A Planning and Demonstration Grant applications with a quantitative fatality rate of 17.0 fatalities per 100,000 persons or greater. A non-exhaustive list of eligible applicants that would receive this award consideration is located here: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/fatality-rate-consideration>

Implementation Grants

Merit Criteria:

- Safety Impact
- Equity, Engagement and Collaboration
- Effective Practices and Strategies
- Other DOT Strategic Goals
- Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities – USDOT will only evaluate for applicants requesting funds to conduct supplemental planning and/or carry out demonstration activities.

Additional Considerations:

- Project Readiness

Award Considerations:

- The percentage of Implementation Grant funds that will be spent in, and provide safety benefits to, locations in Census tracts designated as underserved communities as defined by this NOFO.
- Whether the applicant is in a rural area.
- Whether the applicant is identified as a priority community within the federal Thriving Communities Network.²⁹
- Whether the applicant would enhance the geographic diversity of Implementation Grant award recipients.
- Federal funding requests for project and strategy activities totaling \$10 million or less (i.e., the supplemental planning and demonstration activities do not count toward the \$10 million total).
- Whether the applicant has a finalized comprehensive safety action plan that includes all components in Table 1 by April 2024.
- Whether the applicant has a Killed and Serious Injuries per \$1 million in Federal

funding rate is high compared to other Highly Rated applications.

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

USDOT expects to obligate award funding via a signed grant agreement between the USDOT and the recipient, as flexibly and expeditiously as possible, within 12 months after awards have been announced. The expected period of performance for Planning and Demonstration Grant agreements is between 12 months and 5 years, depending on the scope and extent of the grant activities. The period of performance for Planning and Demonstration Grant and Implementation Grant agreements may not exceed five years.

There are 3 deadlines for Planning and Demonstration Grants – April 4, 2024, May 16, 2024, and August 29, 2024. Applications received on or before each deadline will be reviewed and evaluated separately from applications received at other deadlines.

There is 1 deadline for Implementation Grants – May, 16, 2024.

PENNDOT ROLE

PennDOT Emphasis

PennDOT continues to promote the practices and tools that make the Commonwealth’s transportation network safer and that help all roadway users become more responsible. A combined effort among all safety stakeholders and partners is necessary to continue reducing fatalities and move toward the zero-death aspirational transportation safety goal. Though PennDOT is not an eligible applicant, the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program offers the opportunity for PennDOT partners to create Safety Action Plans or to implement those plans. Applicants might consider referring to the PennDOT Active Transportation Plan and Highway Safety Plans in their grant applications to reinforce recommendations in their Action Plans.

PennDOT Support

Transportation Federal Funding Opportunities Resource Account:

RA-PDTRANSFEDFUNDOPP@pa.gov

PennDOT will consider providing technical support for regionally supported grant proposals as applicable (if State owned roadways are included). PennDOT support may include providing data and subject matter expertise as available and potentially a letter of support.

The deadline for requesting PennDOT support is:

- **March 21, 2024, for Round 1**
- **May 2, 2024, for Round 2 (and all Implementation Grant applications)**
- **August 15, 2024, for Round 3**