Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program

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Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) Monday, July 10, 2023. Late applications will not be accepted.

IMPORTANT - Before submitting your materials, you must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number in order to apply. To request a UEI, please visit SAM.gov. *Note that this may take up to 30 days.*

Applications must be submitted via Valid Eval, an online submission proposal system used by USDOT.
Implementation Grant applicants – Apply at:
https://usg.valideval.com/teams/usdot_ss4a_2023_implementation/signup

Planning and Demonstration Grant applicants - Apply at:
https://usg.valideval.com/teams/usdot_ss4a_2023_planning_demo/signup

Customer support for Valid Eval can be reached at support@valideval.com

Program Overview

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program with $5 billion in appropriated funds over the next 5 years. The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.

The SS4A program supports Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg's National Roadway Safety Strategy and the Department's goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on our nation's roadways.

The purpose of SS4A grant program is to improve roadway safety by significantly reducing or eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries through safety action plan development and implementation focused on all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, motorists, personal conveyance and micromobility users, and commercial vehicle operators. The program provides funding to develop the tools to strengthen a community's approach to safety and save lives.

There are two types of SS4A grants: Planning and Demonstration Grants and Implementation Grants.

Who is eligible for grant funding?

- Metropolitan planning organizations;
- Counties, cities, towns, and transit agencies or other special districts that are subdivisions of a State;
- Federally recognized Tribal governments; and

- Multijurisdictional groups comprised of the above entities.

Implementation grant applicants - An eligible applicant for an Implementation Grant must also meet *at least one* of these conditions:

1. have ownership and/or maintenance responsibilities over a roadway network;
2. have safety responsibilities that affect roadways; or
3. have agreement from the agency that has ownership and/or maintenance responsibilities for the roadway within the applicant's jurisdiction

What activities are eligible?

There are two types of SS4A grants:

1. Planning and Demonstration Grants
2. Implementation Grants

Planning and Demonstration Grants have three different types of activities:

1. Develop an Action Plan
2. Conduct supplemental safety planning to enhance an Action Plan; and
3. Carry out demonstration activities to inform the development of, or an update to, an Action Plan.

The three different types of activities under Planning and Demonstration Grants can either be bundled together into one application, or an applicant may choose to request funding for only one of the activities. Applicants applying for only supplemental planning and/or demonstration projects must have an existing Action Plan that is substantially similar and meets the eligibility requirements or be in the process of developing a comprehensive safety action plan.

For Implementation Grants, activities must include element (C) "carrying out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan," and may include element (B) "conducting planning, design, and development activities for projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan" and/or element (A) "supplemental planning or demonstration activities." Projects and strategies identified in element (C) must be either infrastructure, behavioral, or operational activities identified in the Action Plan, and must be directly related to addressing the safety problem(s) identified in the application and Action Plan.

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.

Planning and Demonstration Grant Example Activities

Communities can use Planning and Demonstration Grants to develop or complete an Action Plan, conduct supplemental planning, and/or conduct demonstration activities that will inform the development of an Action Plan.

The comprehensive safety action plan that a Safe Streets and Roads for All grant funds includes the following key components:

- **Leadership commitment and goal setting** that includes a goal timeline for eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries.
- **Planning structure** through a committee, task force, implementation group, or similar body charged with oversight of the Action Plan development, implementation, and monitoring.
- **Safety analysis** of the existing conditions and historical trends that provides a baseline level of crashes involving fatalities and serious injuries across a jurisdiction, locality, Tribe, or region.
- **Engagement and collaboration** with the public and relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and community groups, that allows for both community representation and feedback.
- **Equity** considerations developed through a plan using inclusive and representative processes.
- **Policy and process changes** that assess the current policies, plans, guidelines, and/or standards to identify opportunities to improve how processes prioritize transportation safety.
- **Strategy and project selections** that identify a comprehensive set of projects and strategies, shaped by data, the best available evidence and noteworthy practices, as well as stakeholder input and equity considerations, that will address the safety problems described in the Action Plan.
- **Progress and transparency methods** that measure progress over time after an Action Plan is developed or updated, including outcome data.

Supplemental Action Plan Examples

Supplemental Action Plan activities that support or enhance an existing Action Plan could include, but are not limited to:

- Topical safety sub-plans focused on topics such as speed management, vulnerable road users, accessibility for individuals with disabilities, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) transition plans, health equity, safety-focused Intelligent Transportation System implementation, lighting, or other relevant safety topics
- Road safety audits
- Additional safety analysis and expanded data collection and evaluation using integrated data
- Targeted equity assessments
- Follow-up stakeholder engagement and collaboration
- Reporting on the progress from Action Plan implementation for transparency
- Other roadway safety planning activities that enhance an Action Plan

Demonstration Activity Examples

- Feasibility studies using quick-build strategies that inform permanent projects in the future (e.g., use of paint and plastic delineator posts to experiment with impermanent roadway design changes, use of removable barriers to reallocate roadway space).
- Various Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Device (MUTCD) engineering studies that further safety applications of the MUTCD (e.g., evaluating warrants for traffic signal installation, high-visibility crosswalk markings, bike lane treatments).

- Pilot programs for behavioral or operational activities that include at least one element of the Safe System Approach (e.g., test out a new education campaign's messaging at a small scale, trial changes to how Emergency Medical Services respond to crashes).
- Pilot programs that demonstrate safety benefits of technologies not yet adopted in the community (e.g., variable speed limits, technology for adaptive signal timing, adaptive lighting, Intelligent Transportation Systems, vehicle-to-infrastructure technology). Eligible technologies must be commercially available and at a prototype or advanced technological readiness level.

Implementation Grant Example Activities

Implementation Grants fund projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan that address roadway safety problems. Implementation Grants may also fund supplemental planning and demonstration activities as described above on this website, as well as planning, design, and development activities for projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.

Below are illustrative examples of projects and strategies that could be conducted as part of an Implementation Grant. This list is not intended to be exhaustive in nature and could include infrastructure, behavioral, and operational safety activities identified in an Action Plan:

- **Applying low-cost roadway safety treatments** system-wide, such as left- and right-turn lanes at intersections, centerline and shoulder rumble strips, wider edge lines, high-friction surface treatments, road diets, and better signage along high-crash urban and rural corridors.
- **Identifying and correcting common risks** across a network, such as improving pedestrian crosswalks by adding high-visibility pavement markings, lighting, and signage at transit stops, in a designated neighborhood, or along a busy public transportation route.
- **Transforming a roadway corridor** on a High-Injury Network into a Complete Street with safety improvements to control speed, separate users, and improve visibility, along with other measures that improve safety for all users.
- **Installing pedestrian safety enhancements and closing network gaps** with sidewalks, rectangular rapid-flashing beacons, signal improvements, and audible pedestrian signals for people walking, rolling, or using mobility assisted devices.
- **Supporting the development of bikeway networks** with bicycle lanes for different roadway volumes and speeds that are safe for people of all ages and abilities.
- **Carrying out speed management strategies** such as implementing traffic calming road design changes, addressing speed along key corridors through infrastructure, conducting education and outreach, setting appropriate speed limits, and making strategic use of speed safety cameras.
- **Creating safe routes to school and public transit services** through multiple activities that lead to people safely walking, biking, and rolling in underserved communities.
- **Promoting the adoption of innovative technologies or strategies to promote safety** and protect vulnerable road users in high-traffic areas where commercial motor vehicles (CMVs), pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, etc. interact.

- **Conducting education campaigns to accompany new or innovative infrastructure**, such as roundabouts, pedestrian hybrid beacons, or pedestrian-only zones.
- **Reducing roadway departure crashes** through enhanced delineation, shoulder widening, rumble strips, and roadside safety improvements.
- **Evaluating and improving the safety of intersections** by considering innovative design changes, improved delineation, and advanced warning.

Implementation Grant applicants may also "bundle" supplemental planning and demonstration activities with funding proposals for projects and strategies. These additional activities do not need to be in the same area as the projects and strategies, and could be addressing a separate safety issue. DOT will evaluate such activities separately from projects and strategies. Some examples include:

- **Working with community members in an identified problem area** to carry out quick-build street design changes informed by outreach and user input.
- **Unifying and integrating safety data across jurisdictions** where local agencies share their crash, roadway inventory, and traffic volume data to create an analytic data resource.
- **Testing out the deployment advanced transportation technologies**, such as the installation of connected intersection-based safety solutions and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) advisory speed limit systems (e.g., Intelligent Speed Assistance [ISA]).
- **Improving first responder services** with improved crash data collection, formalizing street names and addressing, and enhancing emergency vehicle warning systems.
- **Implementing standard and novel data collection and analysis technologies and strategies** to better understand vulnerable road user (pedestrian/bicycle/transit rider) network gaps and to collect exposure data.

Selection Considerations

For Planning and Demonstration Grants, DOT seeks to make awards based on safety impact, equity, and additional safety context.

For Implementation Grants, DOT seeks to make awards to projects and strategies that:

- Save lives and reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries;
- Incorporate equity, engagement, and collaboration into how projects and strategies are executed;
- Use effective practices and strategies; and
- Consider climate change, sustainability, and economic competitiveness in project and strategy implementation.

If the application includes supplemental planning and/or demonstration activities, DOT will also assess whether the applicant has described the scope of work, the roadway safety issues that

necessitate further Action Plan development, and how those activities will inform an Action Plan.

Project readiness, funding to provide safety benefits for underserved communities, funding to rural areas, affiliation with a Thriving Communities network, and enhancing the diversity of award recipients are selection considerations for Implementation Grants. Budget costs are a consideration for both Planning and Demonstration and Implementation Grants.

Submitting Your Application

Get your proposal in early. Allow for time to troubleshoot technical issues and submit by the deadline. **Late applications will not be accepted.** Review the following before beginning your application:

Applying to SS4A:

- **Begin the process with SAM.gov:** Before submitting your materials, you must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number in order to apply. To request a UEI, please visit SAM.gov. Note that this may take up to 30 days.
- **Register with Valid Eval**: Valid Eval is a third-party web-based evaluation platform used by USDOT and other Federal programs to support program evaluation. Applicants will submit their applications via Valid Eval.
    - Go to Valid Eval's signup page and register for one of two account types, depending on the grant type you are applying to:

        1. Register on Valid Eval to apply for a Planning and Demonstration Grant
        2. Register on Valid Eval to apply for an Implementation Grant

Use your email address to register. The registration process should take approximately 10 minutes and can be done ahead of submitting your application. If you already have an account with Valid Eval, you do not need to register again.
Contact support@valideval.com or SS4A@dot.gov with any technical issues.

Do not apply through Grants.gov. You must apply through Valid Eval. Grants.gov will have the SS4A opportunity posted, but you *cannot* apply through Grants.gov.

Submit application: When you are ready to submit your application, go to the same sign-up link as above.

- Log in to your account in Valid Eval.
- Answer all of the registration details and key information questions on the page.
- Upload the completed Standard Forms and other applicable attachments at the bottom of the page.
- Click on "Submit Your Application."

- You will see a confirmation page letting you know your submission is complete. Take a screenshot with the time stamp if you finish your application the afternoon of July 10. **Late applications will not be accepted.**
- If any required details on the page are missing, you will need to scroll up the page and complete the missing details before you can submit your application. Details are not saved if you exit this page before seeing the confirmation page.
- Once submitted, you can return to your application until the NOFO closes by logging into https://usg.valideval.com/ using the login credentials you created at signup. You can also add additional team members to your profile who may need to be included on any feedback notifications.

Resources

FY23 SS4A Notice of Funding Opportunity - https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2023-03/SS4A-NOFO-FY23.pdf

For additional information on SS4A see: https://www.transportation.gov/SS4A

SS4A Frequently Asked Questions: https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/faqs

How to Apply: https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/how-to-apply

Valid Eval for Planning and Demonstration Grant Applicants: https://usg.valideval.com/teams/usdot_ss4a_2023_planning_demo/signup

Valid Eval for Implementation Grant Applicants: https://usg.valideval.com/teams/usdot_ss4a_2023_implementation/signup

UNH T2 is pleased to provide free and customized Technical Assistance to local road agencies on a variety of road maintenance and transportation infrastructure-related topics, including bridge preservation and maintenance activities. Please reach out to t2.center@unh.edu for additional resources, support, or technical assistance, or visit https://t2.unh.edu/.

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