

How to Increase **Your Chances** of Receiving a Safe Routes to School Grant



Secure Approval from all Parties

- ✓ Ensure you have approval from all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the project.
- ✓ Show evidence of support from every group, such as letters of commitment in addition to signed resolutions and letters of support.
- ✓ Commit to local ongoing maintenance after the project is completed.

Create a Comprehensive Program

- ✓ Outline all aspects of infrastructure (access, street crossings, speed reduction, etc.) and propose a project that addresses stated barriers, problems, and issues.
- ✓ Document the infrastructure problems using speed studies, crash data, photos (up to 10), or anything else that details the severity of the problem and demonstrates a true funding need.
- ✓ Show there is a plan to implement education, encouragement and enforcement projects.

Earn extra points showing evidence of Support for Safe Routes to School and Active Transportation like:

- ✓ School Travel Plans
- ✓ NJ Safe Routes to School Recognition Program Recipient
- ✓ Adoption of School Wellness Policy which includes support for walking and bicycling to school
- ✓ Complete Streets Policy Adoption

Identify Related Past Activities or Future Plans

- ✓ Describe previous bike/pedestrian projects or education, enforcement or encouragement activities.
- ✓ Show all past efforts to improve bicycle or pedestrian safety, and if the application does not include efforts, document reasons for this and suggest plans to do so in the future.

Additional Information and Suggestions

- ✓ Extra consideration will be given to projects in disadvantaged communities.
- ✓ Organize large projects into phases
- ✓ Remember that federal authorization is necessary before any work on the project may begin.
- ✓ If your application was not funded in the past, don't despair! Strengthen your application either by creating a school travel plan or improving your record of related activities and plans.

For more information, visit saferoutesnj.org/funding





Safe Routes to School Grants Strategies & Tips

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) offers federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program funding for infrastructure projects that 1) enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school, 2) make bicycling and walking a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, and 3) facilitate the development of projects that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution near New Jersey's schools.

1. Any NJ county, municipality, school or school district may apply, provided that they demonstrate an ability to meet the requirements of the program. NJDOT has final authority to make that determination. Signed resolution of support from the governing body of the municipality where the project will be located is required along with a maintenance commitment. A letter of support for the project is also required from the Board of Education/School Board. If the project is on a county road, support from the county must also be included.
2. Projects must be located within 2 miles of any school that serves students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade, with the locations of the project and school(s) and distance between them indicated on a map.
3. Funds from the SRTS program are provided on a reimbursement basis only.
4. Applications must be submitted using NJDOT's online electronic grants administration system, SAGE. A full time employee of the applicant (cannot be a consultant) must be the *person of responsible charge* for the project with contact information included in the application.
5. Student arrival and departure tallies are no longer required.

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