Safe Routes to School Competitive Infrastructure Grant Program

Oregon Department of Transportation

2019-2020

THREE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

\$10 million (\$15 million starting in 2023) Safe Routes to School Infrastructure funds are allocated annually to three programs:



Rapid Response Program: 10%
 Project Identification Program: 2.5%

- Competitive Grant Program: 87.5% of funds
- Rapid Response Grant Program: 10% of funds
- Project
 Identification
 Program: 2.5% of
 fund

This one-pager focuses on the Competitive Grant Program. For information about Rapid Response and Project Identification Programs, visit SRTS Program website.

COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

How much funding is available? The 2019-20 Competitive Grant cycle will distribute \$16 million.

Who can apply? Cities, counties, ODOT, tribes, transit districts, and other road authorities may apply.

What kind of projects are eligible?

Safety projects on the public road right of way, consistent with jurisdictional plans, supported by the school or school district, are within a one-mile radius of a Title I school (school with 40% or more low income students), and that positively affects the ability of children to walk and bicycle to school. Project examples include sidewalks, median refuge islands, rapid flashing beacons, etc.

What is the match requirement? 20% cash match is required. For more information visit the SRTS Program website.

HOW TO APPLY

Where and when can I apply? All application materials can be found at https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Programs/Pages/SRTS.aspx.

July 23, 2018: Solicitation begins August 31, 2018: Letter of Intent due October 15, 2018: Applications due; solicitation ends

SRTS Program website: <u>https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Programs/Pages/SRTS.aspx</u> Contact: LeeAnne Fergason, <u>leeanne.fergason@odot.state.or.us</u>, 503-986-5805

FUNDING FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

In the spring of 2017 House Bill 2017 passed in the Oregon State Legislature, dedicating \$10 million annually for Safe Routes to School infrastructure, increasing to \$15 million annually in 2023. The purpose of the funding is to build projects within a onemile radius of schools to make it safer and easier for students to walk and bicycle to school.

Important facts:

- SRTS funds are available because of an increase in State Highway taxes and fees and are deposited into the Safe Routes to School Fund.
- There is a 40% cash match for the funds. Cash match can be reduced to 20% when the project is within a city of 5,000 people or fewer, or is near a Title I school, or is within a "Priority Safety Corridor."
- The Safe Routes to School Fund is guided by OAR 737-025.

PROJECT SELECTION

What kinds of projects will rise to the top for funding?

A competitive project will have some of the following criteria:

High Priority:

Low priority:

High percentage of students receiving free/reduced lunch High posted speed at project location Two or more lanes at project location, or crossing distance greater than 30 feet High average daily vehicles at project location One or more school related crashes near project location Medium Priority: Affects elementary or middle school students Ability for project to be completed in five years Project proximity to the school Project benefits multiple schools

Affected school has had past, has present, or planned complimentary education and encouragement programs

The Safe Routes o School Advisory Committee will make final project recommendations to the Oregon Transportation Commission.

PROJECT DELIVERY

- Grant Recipients will be reimbursed for project costs by ODOT.
- Monthly progress reports must be submitted by Grant Recipient.
- Projects must be completed within five years.
- Grant Recipient must begin to expend funds ASAP, at least by two years.
- Grant Recipients are highly encouraged to incorporate encouragement programs.
- Visit SRTS Program website for more details.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

All Safe Routes to School Advisory, Oregon Transportation Commission, and Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public with time allotted for public testimony. Applicants may submit letters of support for projects from committees like local Area Commissions on Transportation and community-based organizations.