



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
P.O. Box 600
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DIANE GUTIERREZ-SCACCETTI
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

May 25, 2021

Re: Safe Routes to School
Request for Applications

Dear Prospective Applicant:

On behalf of Governor Philip D. Murphy, I am pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2022 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program. The SRTS program is funded through the Federal Highway Administration's Federal Aid Program and is being administered by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), in partnership with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), and the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO).

The objectives of the SRTS Program are:

- To enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
- To make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
- To facilitate the development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of New Jersey's primary and middle schools, (Grades K-8).

Projects must be located within two miles of a school that serves students in grades K-8. Funding for the 2022 SRTS Program will be available for the construction of infrastructure projects only. Infrastructure projects may include the installation of sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, multi-use paths, traffic calming measures, and other means to ensure the ease and safety of children walking or biking to school.

For this solicitation, applicants may apply only for construction funds. Any municipality, school district, or county is eligible to apply for funding. Nonprofit organizations are not eligible as direct grant sub-recipients for SRTS funds unless they qualify through one of the eligible entity categories (e.g., where a nonprofit organization is a designated transit agency, school, or an entity responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs).

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Nonprofit entities are eligible to partner with any eligible entity on an eligible project, if State or local requirements permit. The NJDOT has final authority to make a determination on the eligibility of an applicant.

In addition to the traditional grant criteria, for this solicitation, consideration will be given to applications that provide additional benefits to vulnerable members of our communities, including low-income residents, minorities, those with limited English proficiency, persons with disabilities, children and older adults. Census data for these categories will be used to determine if a project meets the equity criteria. Information regarding equity will be available through NJDOT's Local Aid Resource Center web site at:

<https://www.njdotlocalaidrc.com/equity>

Information about scheduling a one on one pre-submission meeting will be forthcoming on the website as well as dates for informational webinars about the Safe Routes to School Program.

As with all federally funded programs, the funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. The award of SRTS grants will be contingent upon the recipient's ability to comply with all applicable federal financial management, project implementation, and oversight regulations. Before applying, applicants should assess their capability to comply with state and federal requirements for the administration of federal-aid highway grants set forth in Title 23 - Highways, and OMB requirements related to uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for federal awards (2 CFR Part 200).

Public rights-of-way and facilities are required to be accessible for all users through the statutes regardless of funding source. Recipients of federal and state grants will be required to comply with the provisions of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Applications for the SRTS Program are due on or before October 14, 2021. Due to the extra challenges this year, the typical solicitation time has been extended to provide notification as this school year winds down, opportunity to advance an application in the summer, and additional time in the fall to finish the process. The October 14th deadline provides an additional 31 days for applicants to prepare and submit the application. Applications must be submitted online through NJDOT SAGE at:

<https://njsage.intelligrants.com/>

Additional information on the SRTS Program is available at:

<https://njdotlocalaidrc.com/federally-funded-programs/safe-routes-to-school>

I recommend that you consult your Local Aid District Office and your corresponding Metropolitan Planning Organization for assistance in preparing applications for this program. Contact information is included.

The Division of Local Aid offers a SRTS Design Assistance Program, which provides consultant engineering services to assist Local Public Agencies (LPAs) with the development of plans, specifications, and estimates for their SRTS projects. Recipients of the 2022 SRTS grant solicitation will be eligible to participate in the program. The program was developed by NJDOT as part of the Federal Highway Administration's Every Day Counts (EDC) initiative and is intended to shorten time, reduce costs, and improve quality in the delivery of NJDOT SRTS projects. Consultant costs for this program are paid by NJDOT and are not part of the grant amount if your LPA chooses to participate.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to improve safety for New Jersey's school children. Good luck with your application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti".

Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti
Commissioner

cc: Municipal Clerk
Municipal Engineer
County Engineer

Enclosure