



State of New Jersey

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



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

RICHARD T. HAMMER
Acting Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

March 31, 2016

Re: Safe Routes to School
Request for Applications

Dear Applicant:

On behalf of Governor Chris Christie, I am pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 2016 Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS). 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 2016 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, Urban Aid Communities determined by the Department of Community Affairs, and municipalities containing Schools Development Authority (SDA) Districts outlined by the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, may apply for design as well as construction funds.

Any municipality, school district, or county is eligible to apply for funding. Non-profit organizations are not eligible as direct grant recipients for this solicitation. However, non-profit organizations may partner with a local public agency that will assume responsibility and administration for the grant.

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 administrative rules (2 CFR Part 200, 2 CFR Part 215) and cost principals (2 CFR Part 1201) requirements.

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 June 27, 2016 and must be submitted online through NJDOT SAGE at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/sage.shtm>

Additional information on the SRTS Program is available at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/srts.shtm>

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.

In 2015, the Division of Local Aid launched a new program, the SRTS Design Assistance Program, which is meant to provide consultant engineering services to assist Local Public Agencies (LPAs) with the development of plans, specifications, and estimates for their SRTS projects. Recipients of the 2016 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 initiative and is intended to shorten time, reduce costs, and improve quality in the delivery of NJDOT SRTS projects.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to improve the safety of New Jersey's school children. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Richard T. Hammer
Acting Commissioner

Enclosure

cc: Municipal Clerk
Municipal Engineer
County Engineer