

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

Application Workbook

GRANTS OFFICE
empowering communities

Contact us at grantwriting@grantsoffice.com

Table of Contents

Introduction

3 Understanding this Document

4 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grants Overview

5 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grants Basics

6 Comprehensive Safety Action Plans

7 Keys to a Successful SS4A Proposal

Project Planning Guide

8 Getting Started

9 Applicant Information

Application Components

10 Project Goal

11 Underserved Communities & Project Area Crash History

12 For Planning and Demonstration Grants

13 Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities

14 Safety Action Plans for Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Grants

14 For Implementation Grants

15 Planning and Demonstration Grant Budget Worksheet

16 Implementation Grant Budget Worksheet

18 Project Timeline

Additional Guidance

19 Additional Resources, Attachments to be completed and included, & Additional items to include

Understanding this document

This application workbook is designed to help you organize your thoughts and ideas in one place as you **prepare your grant application**. The questions are structured to build on one another—starting broadly with an overview of your organization and project goals and then moving into more specific details that will ultimately support the development of a strong proposal.

This application workbook is customized to align with the specific Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants. Grants Office consultants carefully review each NOFO to **identify the core elements you will be evaluated on**, the questions you'll need to address in the application, and any additional components—such as letters of support or required approvals—that you'll need to include. This way, you know the questions you're working on throughout this document are the same ones reviewers will be looking for in your application.

Keep in mind that this workbook is **meant to serve as a starting point**, not a final draft. It is a planning tool and should not be submitted as your application. You can add as much or as little information as makes sense for you right now. The more detail you provide early on, the stronger foundation you'll have for drafting narrative sections, engaging potential collaborators, and guiding discussions with your grant writer. Don't have a grant writer? We can help. Complete this workbook and email it to us: grantwriting@grantsoffice.com.

Think of this as a flexible tool: **a place to capture your ideas, shape your project framework, and set yourself up for success in the grant writing process!**

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grants

The **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)** Grant Program is a federal initiative administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation to improve roadway safety and reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries across the country. Established under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the program supports comprehensive, data-driven safety initiatives at the local, regional, and Tribal levels.

SS4A offers two types of grants:

Planning and Demonstration Grants support the creation of Safety Action Plans—such as Vision Zero plans—as well as additional safety analyses and pilot projects. These grants are often the first step for communities seeking to identify safety risks and prioritize improvements. Grants will fund any of these three activities:

- Developing a new Safety Action Plan,
- Conducting **supplemental safety planning** to strengthen an existing Safety Action Plan, or
- Implementing early demonstration efforts to further identify activities needed under the creation or update of a Safety Action Plan.



Find more information about supplemental safety planning on page 13.

Implementation Grants provide funding to carry out projects and strategies identified in an existing DOT-approved Safety Action Plan.

Projects can include roadway redesigns, traffic calming measures, improved signage and lighting, intersection upgrades, and other infrastructure or behavioral interventions.



We hope this workbook helps your application land in the win column. **Need some help?** Grants Development Consultants are standing by to assist with anything from grant research, project development, proposal writing, and proposal review. Just complete this workbook and email us: grantwriting@grantsoffice.com

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Basics

Deadlines:
Application submissions for both grants are due on May 26, 2026. For Implementation Grants, it is highly recommended that applicants send Safety Action Plans for review by April 24. 2026.

Funding totals:
A total of $993 million is available for all forms of SS4A in FY26.

- **Planning and Demonstration Grants** – Up to $306 million is available for with awards ranging from $100,000 to $5 million.

- **Implementation Grants** – Up to $688 million is available for with awards ranging from $2.5 million to $25 million.

Cost Share:
A 20% cost share is required for both forms of SS4A grants.

Find more information:
https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A

Find the Project Timeline worksheet on Page 18.

Learn more about the **Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program** in Grants Office Communities:

Types of Organizations Eligible to Apply to Both Grants:

- Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs).
- Political subdivisions of a State or territory (e.g., counties, cities, towns, special districts, certain transit agencies, and similar units of local government such as school districts, state universities, or local public health agencies).
- Tribal governments.
- A multijurisdictional group of entities.

Additional Considerations for Implementation Grants:

- Applicants for the SS4A Implementation Grant must have an approved **Safety Action Plan**: https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/comprehensive-safety-action-plans.
- It is highly recommended that you submit your **Safety Action Plan** for review by April 24, 2026.
- If you do not have an eligible Action Plan, review the Notice of Funding (NOFO) and consider applying for an SS4A Planning and Demonstration Grant instead.

Safety Action Plans:

Safety Action Plans are a fundamental component of all SS4A grants. For those pursuing SS4A's **Planning and Demonstration Grant**, the applicant's aim is to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for eventual DOT approval. For those pursuing SS4A's **Implementation Grant,** a DOT-approved Safety Action Plan is required and serves as a prerequisite.

Safety Action Plans verify that all proposed efforts to be funded under SS4A awards have been strategically chosen to save lives and meet the purpose of the funding.



For a **Planning and Demonstration Grant**, applicants present desired SS4A-relevant traffic safety efforts to be outlined in an eventual Safety Action Plan. For an **Implementation Grant**, applicants must have a Safety Action Plan that details every proposed SS4A effort to be funded.

All Safety Action Plans must include the following elements:

1. Leadership commitment and goal setting
2. Planning structure
3. Safety analysis
4. Engagement and collaboration
5. Policy and process changes
6. Strategy and project selections
7. Progress and transparency

The seven qualifying Safety Action Plan elements may be drawn from up to three previously existing local plans (listed below), only if they meet the requirements of the Self-Certification Eligibility Worksheet.

Examples of existing local plans that **may** meet the criteria include the following:

- Vision Zero Action Plans
- Local Road Safety Plans
- Tribal Transportation Safety Plans

If your existing local plan(s) includes many *but not all* of the elements in the Self-Certification Eligibility Worksheet, you should consider applying for *Planning and Demonstration* funds to complete or update your existing plan and conduct supplemental planning and/or demonstration activities.

Keys to a Successful SS4A Proposal



Create a strong, actionable plan
Include a clear timeline, phases, and deliverables.

Secure commitment letters early
A commitment letter is from the agency that owns the road (like the State DOT), confirming they will allow and maintain the project.

Define your High Injury Network (HIN)
You must use data to prove where the danger is. For example, identifying areas with the highest frequency of fatal/serious injuries.

Provide a clear vision statement
Make sure your goals align with the Safe Systems Approach.

Scan to learn more about the **Safe Systems Approach.**

Prioritize equity and underserved communities
A substantial portion of the scoring is based on Equity.

Outline performance and evaluation measures
Determine who and how you will track progress and analyze results.

Demonstrate readiness
Are you actually prepared and ready to implement this? Provide staff roles, management structure, and partnerships.

Tell the reviewers a story
Explain the problem, why it matters, what the plan is, how you'll implement the plan, and how your project will impact your community.

Safe Streets and Roads for All Project Planning Guide

Before beginning your organization's application, work through the following questions to help your project take shape. These prompts will help you develop your project into a winnable proposal.

Organization Name

Organization's SAM/UEI

Organization's EIN



Important! You must have a Unique Entity Identifier to apply for SS4A. You can check your organization's status or register at sam.gov.

Is your organization eligible to apply to SS4A, meeting both of the following criteria:	Yes	No	N/A
Are you eligible to apply based on the eligibility criteria?	☐	☐	
For Implementation Grant applicants, do you have an approved **Comprehensive Safety Action Plan?**	☐	☐	
If your project will be a collaboration, do your organizations have letters of support from collaborators?	☐	☐	☐

Choose priority area or areas that will be addressed (you may select more than one):

- ☐ Promote safety to prevent fatal and serious injuries on public roadways
- ☐ Beautifying transportation infrastructure with context-appropriate design and/or child friendly elements
- ☐ Advance eligible truck parking with a clear roadway safety nexus
- ☐ Employ low-cost, high-impact strategies to improve safety over a wide geographic area
- ☐ Incorporate evidence-based projects and strategies and adopt innovative technologies and strategies
- ☐ Demonstrate engagement with a variety of public and private stakeholders
- ☐ Ensure equitable investment in the safety needs of underserved communities

Applicant Information

The following pages contain application components to assist you in planning your project.

Please note that this workbook is a planning tool provided by Grants Office LLC and is not an official SS4A document. These pages should not be uploaded as part of your final application to SJI.

Project Title

Application Type



You can apply for both categories, but each needs a separate application. Please fill out a separate application guide for each one.

Applicant Contact Name and Email Address

Financial Contact Name and Email Address

Organization Type

- City or township government
- Metropolitan planning organization (MPO)
- Independent school district
- County Government
- Other unit of government
- Other
- Tribal government
- Public or state institution of higher education

Request Breakdown

Total Project Cost should be the sum of all Federal and non-Federal funds. Cost match is 20%. The other Federal Funds field may include funds directly received from a Federal agency of funds received through a pass-through agency (e.g., state governmental agency) that originated as federal funds.

Total SS4A Funding Request	Total SS4A Non-Federal Match	Total Other Federal Funds (if applicable)

Are you using Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) funds as a non-Federal match? (Federally recognized Tribal governments only)

Yes

No

Application Components

Project Goal
Provide a brief summary of your proposed project, what it is trying to achieve, and how it aligns with the national roadway safety priorities.

Make your proposal stand out by including the following:

- A safety problem statement
- Project goals and objectives
- Equity considerations
- Community engagement information
- Alignment with SS4A goals
- Project readiness
- Expected outcomes

Underserved Communities

Identify whether the jurisdiction(s) covered by this application AND the project area(s) are, or include, underserved communities. Refer to https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/identifying-underserved-communities for instructions.

☐ The entire area covered by this application is located in an underserved community.

☐ The area covered by this application is partially located in an underserved community.

☐ None of the area covered by this application is located in an underserved community.

Project Area Crash History

When submitting your online application to SS4A, you will be asked to provide the following data points.

Total count motor vehicle-involved roadway fatalities (2019-2023)

Total average annual fatality rate (per 100,000 population)

Alternative fatality data source (links if applicable)

For Planning and Demonstration Grants:

Based on the NOFO, your application could be flagged as duplicative if it seeks funding to create a new Action Plan while another jurisdiction in your area is already doing the same with SS4A funds, or if another FY26 application is proposing a similar plan for the same area. To avoid this, it's important to connect and coordinate with local and regional partners early on, so you can ensure your proposal is complementary and not overlapping with other FY26 SS4A Action Plan requests.

Have you received, or is your jurisdiction covered by, previous year funding for an SS4A grant? (Select all that apply)

- [ ] No
- [ ] Yes, our jurisdiction received a previous award to develop or complete an Action Plan
- [ ] Yes, our jurisdiction is located in a region that received a previous Action Plan award

If the answer is "Yes", you will need to provide proof of coordination (e.g., letter, email) from the relevant entities affirming that they are aware of your application and the need for coordination among all recipients.



Supplemental Planning and Demonstration is needed if you have an existing Safety Action Plan but need additional elements.

Example: Your original Safety Action Plan does not include drones, but they are needed for your planned emergency response project, you will want to bundle a Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Grant with your Implementation Grant.

Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities

This page is only relevant if your organization plans to request SS4A support for Supplemental Planning and Demonstration efforts.

Indicate what type of Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities you are proposing.
https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/planning-and-demonstration-activities

- If your project **includes** supplemental planning or demonstration activities, select all that apply.
- If your application **does not** contain supplemental planning or demonstration activities, select "Not Applicable".

Supplemental Planning Activities:

- ☐ Additional Analysis
- ☐ Expanded Data Collection
- ☐ Complementary Planning
- ☐ Road Safety Audits
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

Supplemental Demonstration Activities:

- ☐ Quick-builds using temporary materials
- ☐ Demonstration/Pilot of technology to support safety planning and analysis
- ☐ MUTCD Engineering Studies
- ☐ Demonstration/Pilot of Behavioral Program
- ☐ Demonstration/Pilot of Operational Program
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

Safety Action Plans for Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Grants:

If you are requesting funds to "Conduct Demonstration and/or Supplemental Planning Activities (ONLY)", please select the status of your Action Plan, noting *if applicable,* the agency that owns the Action Plan.

- ☐ We have an Action Plan or established plan(s) that contain the required Action Plan elements in Table 1 of the NOFO, and have attached a Self-Certification Eligibility Checklist
- ☐ We are in the process of completing an SS4A-funded Action Plan
- ☐ We are located in a jurisdiction that is in the process of completing an SS4A-funded Action Plan
- ☐ Not applicable. We are not requesting funds to “Conduct Demonstration and/or Supplemental Planning Activities (ONLY)”

For Implementation Grants:

Based on the NOFO, your application could be flagged as duplicative if it seeks funding to create a new Action Plan while another jurisdiction in your area is already doing the same with SS4A funds, or if another FY26 application is proposing a similar plan for the same area. To avoid this, it’s important to connect and coordinate with local and regional partners early on, so you can ensure your proposal is complementary and not overlapping with other FY26 SS4A Action Plan requests.

Safety Action Plans for Implementation Grants

Confirm whether the Action Plan you are using was developed by your jurisdiction or another jurisdiction

- ☐ We are applying with an Action Plan developed by our jurisdiction
- ☐ We are applying with an Action Plan developed by another jurisdiction

Planning and Demonstration Grant Budget Worksheet

This budget worksheet will help you plan your project costs. The final version must be uploaded with your application.

Activities	SS4A Federal Request	SS4A Non-Federal Match	Total SS4A Project Cost	Other Federal Funds (if applicable)
Itemized Estimated Costs to Develop or Update an Action Plan (if applicable)				
New or Updated Action Plan				
Component				
Component				
Component				
Subtotal Budget for New or Updated Action Plans				
Itemized Estimated Costs of Supplemental Planning Activities (if applicable)				
Supplemental Planning Activity #1				
Component				
Component				
Component				
Supplemental Planning Activity #2				
Component				
Component				
Component				
Subtotal Budget for Supplemental Planning Activities				
Itemized Estimated Costs of Demonstration and Pilot Activities (if applicable)				
Demonstration/Pilot Activity #1				
Component				
Component				
Component				
Demonstration/Pilot Activity #2				
Component				
Component				
Component				
Subtotal Budget for Demonstration and Pilot Activities				
Total Budget for Planning and Demonstration Activities				

Implementation Grant Budget Worksheet

This budget worksheet will help you plan your project costs. The final version must be uploaded with your application.

Activities	SS4A Federal Request	SSS4A Non-Federal Request	Total SS4A Project Cost	Other Federal Funds (if applicable)
Itemized Estimated Costs of the (A) Supplemental Action Plan Activities (if applicable)				
Supplemental Planning or Demonstration Activity #1				
Component				
Component				
Component				
Supplemental Planning or Demonstration Activity #2				
Component				
Component				
Component				
Itemized Estimated Costs of the (B) Panning, Design, and Development Activities (if applicable)				
Planning, Design, and Development - Location or Project #1				
Individual Component for Location or Project #1				
Individual Component for Location or Project #1				
Individual Component for Location or Project #1				
Planning, Design, and Development - Location or Project #2				
Planning, Design, and Development - Location or Project #2				
Planning, Design, and Development - Location or Project #2				
Planning, Design, and Development - Location or Project #2				
Subtotal Budget for (B) Conducting Planning, Design, and Development Activities				

Implementation Grant Budget Worksheet (cont.)

This budget worksheet will help you plan your project costs. The final version must be uploaded with your application.

Activities	SS4A Federal Request	SSS4A Non-Federal Request	Total SS4A Project Cost	Other Federal Funds (if applicable)
Itemized Estimated Costs of the (C) Proposed Projects and Strategies				
Implementation - Location or Project #1				
Individual Component for Location or Project #1				
Individual Component for Location or Project #1				
Individual Component for Location or Project #1				
Supplemental Planning or Demonstration Activity #2				
Individual Component for Location or Project #2				
Individual Component for Location or Project #2				
Individual Component for Location or Project #2				
Subtotal Budget for (C) Carrying Out Projects and Strategies				
Total Budget for Activities (A), (B), and (C)				

Project Timeline

Detail each project objective, activity, expected completion date, and responsible person or organization. The period of performance is

KEY OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES, & RESPONSIBLE PERSON	START DATE	COMPLETION DATE

Additional resources:

Planning and Demonstration Grant Application Checklist:
https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2026-03/SS4A-FY26-PDG-Checklist.pdf

Implementation Grant Application Checklist:
https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2026-03/SS4A-FY26-Implementation-Checklist.pdf

Self-Certification Eligibility Worksheet
https://usg.valideval.com/api/v1/documents/3394

Attachments to be completed and included:

Budget template:
https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/planning-and-demo-grant-budget-template

Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424):
https://usg.valideval.com/api/v1/documents/3390

Budget Information for Construction Programs (SF-424C):
https://usg.valideval.com/api/v1/documents/3391

Assurances for Construction Programs (SF-424D):
https://usg.valideval.com/api/v1/documents/3392

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) :
https://usg.valideval.com/api/v1/documents/3393

Additional items to include:

Project Narrative (12 page limit for Planning and Demonstration Grants, and 14 pages for Implementation Grants)

Maps and project location visuals

Letters of support (optional)

Existing plans or policies

Data tables (crash data, risk analysis)



Grants Intelligence Powered By

GRANTS OFFICE
empowering communities

This free resource was created by the grants intelligence team at Grants Office, LLC.

Who is Grants Office?

Grants Office is the leading provider of strategic grant development services for **governments, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, healthcare providers, and for-profit industries**.

Since 2000, Grants Office's focus has been on a collaborative approach to grantseeking with open communication to ensure successful outcomes.

Grants Office Services:

- Research and Consultation: Identify best-fit grants for upcoming projects and provide next steps.
- Project Building: Advise on project development and material gathering with a particular grant in mind.
- Grant Proposal Writing & Review: Write a competitive and engaging proposal or provide feedback on application materials, ensuring compliance with submission requirements
- Grants Office Communities: Our grant-search and collaboration platform, designed to streamline your organization's grantseeking efforts