



2024 Safe Routes to Parks Colorado Activating Communities Program Application

The Safe Routes Partnership is a national nonprofit that works to advance safe walking and bicycling to and from schools to improve the health and well-being of kids of all races, income levels, and abilities and to foster the creation of healthy communities for everyone.

Review the information about the [Safe Routes to Parks: Colorado Activating Communities program](#), eligibility criteria, expectations, and [frequently asked questions](#) on the website as you complete this application. Once you start the application form, it cannot be saved and opened again. We encourage you to review this PDF version of the application form, compose your answers in a word processor, and input them [here](#) when you are ready to submit. If your organization would prefer to submit answers to the project questions in an alternative format such as audio or video, please contact parks@saferoutespartnership.org to discuss options.

Applications are due by 11:59 PM MT on November 21, 2023. If you have any questions during the application process, please contact parks@saferoutespartnership.org.

Please complete all questions on the form. If we have any follow-up questions, we will contact the person listed below.

If you need assistance or have questions about this application, contact parks@saferoutespartnership.org.

Section A: Organization and Contact Information

Organization/Agency Name	Website
Is your organization tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code? CHECK BOX: YES/NO? Note: Only non-profits that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code are eligible for the Safe Routes to Parks Colorado Activating Communities Program.	
Mailing Address	City / State / Zip
Colorado Grantee Community (City/Location/Jurisdiction)	

Name of Project/Initiative (if available)		
Staff Contact Name	Staff Contact Email	Staff Contact Job Title
Staff Contact Number	Date Submitted	

Our total organization/agency budget is:

- ☐ Under \$250,000
- ☐ \$250,000-\$500,000
- ☐ \$500,000-\$1 million
- ☐ Over \$1 million

Support of Local Government

Commitment from local agencies (e.g., parks, planning, and transportation decision-makers) to work together toward improving safe, equitable park access will be necessary in this work. At least one local agency staff is required to participate in monthly technical assistance calls with Safe Routes Partnership and the grantee organization.

A letter of support from your local parks and recreation or transportation agency or city manager/mayor is required. The letter should identify your relationship with local officials and public agencies with jurisdiction over the focus of your project and describe their support for the project. To submit the letter of support, please email it as an attachment to parks@saferoutespartnership.org.

Section B: Safe Routes to Parks Framework and Needs

We are looking for grantees with a range of familiarity with the Safe Routes to Parks concept and framework. The [Safe Routes to Parks Framework](#) is intended to provide nonprofits and local and tribal governments with practice-based guidance on strategies that promote equitable and safe access to and within local parks backed by research and supported by national organizations. The framework is intended to be used as a guide to engage leaders and community members in an ongoing process to ensure that community policies and practices support safe and equitable access to parks.

1. Please select your familiarity with the [Safe Routes to Parks framework](#) and concept

- ☐ Been working with the framework or a similar process and have begun to implement
- ☐ Familiar with the framework but have not begun to implement it
- ☐ New to the framework and the planning process

Section C: Project Questions

Please answer the following questions, providing as much detail as possible within the word limits.

All completed applications will be reviewed for how well your application shows: (1) a clear vision for the equity, health, and safety benefits that Safe Routes to Parks will bring your community; (2) that your

project will engage and empower community members to address barriers to park access in their community, especially low-income community members, communities of color, refugee populations, people with disabilities, older adults, and so on; and (3) that you have a demonstrated readiness and commitment to effectively carry out your project in partnership with community members and local decision-makers.

Clear Vision for Safe Routes to Parks in Your Community

1. Indicate which one of the program strategies you would like your community to advance during this technical assistance program. See the [Program Description](#) for a full explanation of each strategy.

Select one of the following:

- ☐ Integrate Safe Routes to Parks into an existing Safe Routes to School program
 - ☐ Install traffic gardens as a strategy to elevate park access needs
 - ☐ Apply for a U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets for All planning grant
 - ☐ Pilot traffic calming zones around parks
 - ☐ Other (please describe a strategy to advance during the program)
2. State the overall goal or goals of your Safe Routes to Parks project. (2,000-character maximum)
 - What change do you want to see?
 - How will the program strategy selected above help your community achieve that change?
 - What aspects of your park system and your community's access to parks have motivated you to implement Safe Routes to Parks?
 - Please provide sufficient background about your parks and access to parks to allow an understanding of the concerns and potential benefits.
 - If your project is already underway, what has your community done to achieve your goals?
 3. How would this project benefit your community? (2,000-character maximum)

How Project Will Engage and Address Needs of Community Experiencing Disparities

4. Describe your community. (2,000-character maximum)
 - Is it rural, suburban, or urban?
 - What is the racial and income breakdown in your community?
 - What percent of the community is children and older adults?
 - What is unique, important, or challenging about your community?
 - What is the historical context surrounding social and structural injustices related to access to parks?
5. Describe how your current initiatives engage low-income community members, communities of color, refugee populations, people with disabilities, and/or older adults **and** how you plan to engage these populations in the proposed initiative. (4,000-character maximum)

Demonstrated Readiness

6. How does working to advance safe, equitable park access in your community fit into your current organization's mission and goals? (2,000-character maximum)
 - How do you envision this work continuing after the grant period?

- Describe the staff person who will lead this work, their background, connection to community, work on similar projects? Note: Due to the short grant period, we have found it to be helpful for the project to be consistently staffed by the same person.
7. Do you have a coalition or team that is currently working in support of any aspects of Safe Routes to Parks? (2,000-character maximum)
 - If there is a coalition in place, how will your coalition members enable you to achieve your Safe Routes to Parks' goals and the program strategy you selected above?
 - What is your vision for how you would like to build a coalition or strengthen an existing coalition, and what could that achieve?
 8. Please state possible barriers that might prevent your project from being successful and how these could be overcome. (2,000-character maximum)
 - How do you envision using coaching support offered through this program?
 - Specify any challenges or needs you would like us to help you with.

Please send any supporting documents or questions about this application to parks@saferoutespartnership.org.

Confirming understanding of program expectations
(Check to confirm understanding)

- ☐ This is a technical assistance award and grant program. If accepted to the program, selected organizations will meet monthly by phone with staff from the Safe Routes Partnership from January to September 30, 2024.
- ☐ Select organizations must submit a letter of support from parks and recreation, planning or public works agency or city manager or mayor, and ensure the commitment of participation from a local agency staff on monthly technical assistance calls.
- ☐ With coaching and support from Safe Routes Partnership, selected organizations will complete the following timeline of milestones to advance a single program strategy:
 - *Jan - Mar 2024* – Conduct at least two community engagement activities such as walk audits, surveys, or community outreach
 - *April – May 2024* – Plan and participate in a two-day action plan workshop to advance the selected program strategy
 - *June-July 2024* – Plan and implement one early action related to select program strategy
 - *Aug-Sept 2024* – Identify sustainable actions to maintain momentum and submit a final report
- ☐ Selected organizations will receive \$10,000 to begin implementing an early action to advance their program strategy.
- ☐ Selected organizations can focus their work on one park but will be encouraged to think about how to apply Safe Routes to Parks to parks system-wide.