



2018 Information & Application for Safe Routes to Parks Action Program

Introduction

Children and adults in the United States are not getting enough physical activity, and our health and wellbeing is suffering as a result. But communities are working on many strategies to help – making it easier and safer to walk and bicycle, expanding access to parks, and more. One important place for collaboration and advocacy is around making sure that people can safely walk and bicycle to parks – an approach known as **safe routes to parks**. Oftentimes, those communities that are most at need, with the highest levels of traffic injuries and deaths and the highest health disparities, have the lowest levels of safe access to local parks.

With generous funding from the JPB Foundation, the Safe Routes to Parks Action Program is currently accepting applications for awards for ten grantee communities in 2018. An additional ten awards will be made in 2019. As part of the awards, funding and technical assistance will be provided to support the development of action plans and implementation steps to improve safe and equitable park access.

The Safe Routes to Parks Action Program will follow the Safe Routes to Parks Framework, developed in 2017 through the collaborative efforts of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership and the National Recreation and Parks Association. The framework provides a structured process by which communities can increase safe and equitable access to their parks and green spaces. The framework includes four main areas of activity: 1) Assessment, 2) Planning, 3) Implementation, and 4) Sustainability, with each area heavily infused with proactive community engagement.

Grantee communities will receive grants of \$12,000 each, and will receive training, coaching and technical assistance. Technical assistance will include resources, webinars, site visits, peer support, and feedback on plans and projects over the grant period.

Eligible agencies and organizations include local parks or public health departments, other local or tribal governmental entities, and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. While grantees are permitted to focus implementation actions at a single park, Safe Routes to Parks planning must occur at a system or partial system level. Funding must be used to advance implementation of the Safe Routes to Parks planning, and shall not be used solely for salaries or contracted support. **Applications are due before midnight ET on February 23rd, 2018.** **Please note applications are accepted only through the [GoogleForm](#).** We anticipate announcing awards in early March. The time period of grant activities will be from March to September 2018.

If you have any questions during the application process, please contact parks@saferoutespartnership.org.

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership is a national nonprofit founded in 2005 that works to advance safe walking and bicycling to and from schools, to improve the health and wellbeing of kids of all races, income levels and abilities, and to foster the creation of healthy communities for everyone.



2018 Application for Safe Routes to Parks Action Program

Instructions: Please complete all questions on the form

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

Section A: Organization and Contact Information

Organization/Agency Name	Website	
Type of agency (nonprofit, local jurisdiction, tribal government, etc.)		
Address	City / State / Zip	
Grantee Community (City/State/Location/Jurisdiction)		
Staff Contact Name	Email	Job Title
Name of Project/Initiative (if available)		Date Submitted

Our total organization/agency budget is:

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

Support of parks agency

Please identify your relationship with the park agency with jurisdiction over the focus of your project, and describe their support for the project. Alternatively, you may include a letter of support from your parks department or local jurisdiction.

School/Park Co-location

We are interested in whether any of the parks in your system are located next to or near a school, but are not awarding points based upon the responses.

- ☐ Are any of the parks in your system co-located with a school?

Section B: Safe Routes to Parks Framework and Needs

We are looking for grantees with a range of degrees of familiarity with Safe Routes to Parks. The Safe Routes to Parks framework assessment process will assist communities in moving forward. The [Safe Routes to Parks Action Framework](#) is intended to provide nonprofits and local and tribal governments with practice-based guidance on Safe Routes to Parks best practices that are backed by research and supported by national organizations. The framework is intended to be used as a guide that will 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 framework but have not begun to implement it
- ☐ New to the framework and the planning process

2. Which of the following framework stages do you anticipate focusing on for your coaching and technical assistance support, to assist you with increasing safe and equitable access to parks in your community? Check as many as appropriate.

- ☐ **Engage**-Partner with community organizations and community members:
- ☐ **Assess**-Understand community priorities based on data and community input:
- ☐ **Plan**-Develop priority areas, set goals, and specific actions, identify policy improvements, and integrate into agency and jurisdiction plans and policies:
- ☐ **Implementation**-Put plans into action and ensure that those actions are based on best practices in engineering, design and programming:
- ☐ **Sustain**-Ensure efforts are continued, integrated and are positively affecting the community

Section C: Project Questions: Total possible points: 100

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

All completed applications will be scored based upon responses to Section C, with total possible points totaling 100 points. Scores will be based on how well your application shows: (1) a clear vision for the health and other benefits that Safe Routes to Parks will bring your community; (2) that your project will engage, benefit, and address the needs of a population experiencing physical activity or safety disparities, such as low income community members, communities of color, refugee populations, and so on; and (3) that you have a demonstrated readiness to effectively carry out your project.

Clear Vision for Safe Routes to Parks in Your Community

1. Please state the overall goal or goals of your Safe Routes to Parks project. What change do you want to see? If your project is already underway, please include a summary of actions that have taken place already to achieve your goals. What do you think might be accomplished toward this goal within a short time frame, such as one year, or a longer time frame, such as five years. (250 word maximum)
2. 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 to allow an understanding of the concerns and potential benefits. (200 word maximum)

How Project Will Engage & Address Needs of Community Experiencing Disparities

3. Please describe your community. 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? (150 word maximum)
4. How will your project improve health in an underserved community? Are there particular health disparities or challenges that your project would address? How will you engage members of the affected communities in your project? (150 word maximum)

Demonstrated Readiness

1. What assets will enable you to make progress on your Safe Routes to Parks vision through this grant? Do you have a coalition or team that is currently working in support of any aspects of Safe Routes to Parks? Please list the agencies, organizations, community groups, and policy makers in support of the project, and types of assistance they may be able to provide (staff, data, surveys, audits, assessments, funding, or other resources). (150 word maximum)

2. Please state possible barriers that might prevent your project from being successful and how these could be overcome. (150 word maximum)

Conclusion

3. Please provide any additional information you feel would be helpful for our team to gain an understanding of your Safe Routes to Parks project and how it would benefit your community.

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