

**safe routes
to school**
IN SOLANO COUNTY



Safe Routes to School Public Safety Enforcement Grant

Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program in Solano County
Solano Transportation Authority (STA)

www.solanosr2s.ca.gov

Application Package Released	March 13, 2014
Letters of Intent Due	April 11, 2014
Formal Proposals Due	May 9, 2014



WHY SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL MATTERS

The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) launched the County's Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program in 2008 in response to the growing childhood obesity epidemic, student travel safety concerns, growing air pollution and traffic congestion near schools. The program works to encourage more students to walk and bike to school by identifying and implementing a balance of traffic calming and safety engineering projects, student education, encouragement and law enforcement coordination. The goals of the program are to:

- Reduce traffic congestion and air pollution around schools
- Improve children's health by increasing physical activity
- Create community awareness and togetherness



The STA's Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program encourages students to walk and bike to school and supports these activities with education and encouragement events throughout the year. The program brings

together city planners, traffic engineers, police and public health experts to create safer, less congested routes to school. The STA also supports a variety of engineering and enforcement projects, such as this grant.

ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIPS IN SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The main goal for SR2S enforcement strategies is to deter unsafe behaviors of drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists, and to encourage all road users to obey traffic laws and share the road safely. Enforcement is one of the complementary strategies that SRTS programs use to enable more children to walk and bicycle to school safely.

There are police department representatives on each of our SR2S Community Task Forces across Solano County who have actively participated in planning processes, helped draft suggested route to school maps, held safety assemblies, and helped facilitate bicycle rodeos.



PUBLIC SAFETY ENFORCEMENT GRANT: UP TO \$60,000

On July 10, 2013, the STA Board approved the SR2S Program 2-Year Work Plan, authorizing the development of a Public Safety Enforcement Grant totaling up to \$150,000. Individual jurisdictions may apply for a maximum of \$60,000. The deadline for submittal of Letters of Interest to STA is April 11, 2014. Formal Proposals must be submitted to STA by May 9, 2014. Grant applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the STA's SR2S Countywide Advisory Committee. Grant recipients will be awarded by the STA Board at a future Board meeting.

Letters of Interest and Formal Proposals must be submitted via email (preferred) or postal mail to the STA SR2S Program Manager:

Judy Leaks, Program Manager
Solano Transportation Authority
1 Harbor Center, Suisun City, CA 94585
Re: SR2S Public Safety Enforcement Grant
jleaks@sta-snci.com

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The STA's Public Safety Enforcement Grant Program seeks to fund up to \$150,000 in best practice SR2S enforcement activities that can be replicated countywide. Grant submittals up to \$15,000 can be submitted to facilitate Countywide implementation of existing **Crossing Guard Training and materials** to improve consistency of practices and performance. Grant submittals up to \$45,000 can be submitted for other SR2S enforcement activities. A maximum of \$60,000 is available to a jurisdiction, provided the grant submittal includes implementation of existing Crossing

Guard Training and materials. Specific objectives include beginning the 2014-2015 school year:

- Facilitate Countywide implementation of existing **Crossing Guard Training and materials** to improve consistency of practices and performance
- Organize and facilitate **public safety educational opportunities** for parents and students to identify successful self-enforcement strategies and messaging
- Update and improve Rules of the Road and education materials for STA's SR2S Program Events (e.g., bicycle rodeos, safety assemblies and on-road safety training).
- Support staff and parents with identifying and solving enforcement issues **at schools** in the STA's SR2S Program.
- **Implement strategies** to measure effectiveness of enforcement program (e.g., pre/post surveys, and traffic counts, ticket data, speed data, etc.).
- **Partner with STA's** Walking School Bus Program (e.g., presence at park and walk locations, assistance with mapping and suggested safe routes).
- **Support implementation** of identified priority projects.



PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements in order to be considered eligible for grant funding:

- Commit to attending quarterly STA SR2S Countywide Advisory Committee meetings to present grant status reports that include participant information & feedback.
- Coordinate grant related activities with SR2S Program Managers and other public safety department organized activities.
- Clearly demonstrate the ability to fully implement activities funded by the grant within 18 months of executing the funding agreement (e.g., available officer time).
- Submit monthly reports to SR2S Program Manager and attend monthly staff meetings.
- Submit a final report of results and recommended best practices.

GRANT FUNDING

Up to \$150,000 in federal air quality funding, air district clean air funds, and transportation development funds support this grant. An 11.47% match is required. In-kind services may be used towards match funding.



ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

City and County departments in Solano County involved in public safety, including but not limited to police departments, fire departments, and county sheriffs may apply for this grant. Crossing Guard hours cannot be funded through this grant.

APPLICATION & EVALUATION PROCESS

The SR2S Public Safety Enforcement Grant Program will follow a two-step application and evaluation process that will be overseen by the STA’s Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee.

STEP ONE: LETTERS OF INTEREST

Interested organizations are asked to send a “Letter of Interest” that includes the following components (total of 3 page maximum):

- Identify the project title, name of applicant, project manager, and contact information:
- Describe the proposed project. Explain how this project will satisfy the goals and objectives of the grant (e.g., Crossing Guard Training, Public Safety Education Opportunities, Enforcement at Schools, New Pilot Strategies).
- Identify the amount of grant funding requested and any additional department contributions towards the project.

STEP TWO: INVITATION FOR A FORMAL PROPOSAL

The STA Staff and the STA’s Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee will review the Letters of Interest and contact applicants, as needed, for additional information, clarification, and/or modification. STA staff and the Committee will identify a smaller number of projects that match the goals of the SR2S program and grant criteria. These applicants will be invited to submit a more formal proposal for further evaluation including:

1. Project Description: Identify the project title, name of applicant, project manager and contact information. Explain the purpose and need for the project, state the specific goals and objectives of the project and explain how they help to advance the goals and objectives set for this grant program. Describe the collaboration required to carry out the scope of work and the actions that will be undertaken to achieve the objectives. Describe the results anticipated from this project.
2. Scope of Work and Schedule: Detail the actions/tasks, work products, estimated completion dates and key partners. Estimate the number of students and parents that could be reached by this project.
3. Response to Questions from STA Staff and the SR2S Advisory Committee: Provide a detailed response to questions posed by STA staff and the SR2S Advisory Committee as a result of its review of the Letter of Interest for this project.
4. Approach to Evaluation: Describe the method of collecting participant information and feedback from students, parents and school staff. Is the method reasonable given the limited timeframe, and is there potential for the proposal to impact ongoing data collection/evaluation efforts from other sources?
5. Project Cost and Funding: Describe the major resources needed for this project (e.g., staff, consultant, equipment, materials, etc.). Provide a detailed budget that shows total project and cost

breakdown for each major task/action, including a cost estimate for the project evaluation. Identify any cost sharing by multiple funding partners.

STA staff will qualitatively evaluate proposals based on the following criteria on a low, medium, and high scale:

- Potential to increase the number of students walking or bicycling to school within grant period.
- Potential to increase the number of students walking and bicycling to school after the grant period, making a sustainable change
- Estimated number of students & parents reached, and quality of “reach”.
- Potential for other public safety departments to replicate or benefit from this project
- Cost effectiveness (e.g., dollars per student/parent reached)
- Quality of Proposal

After being evaluated, the SR2S Advisory Committee will recommend projects for funding at their May meeting and the STA Board will award grants at a future meeting.

STA staff will then draft and enter into funding agreements with grant recipients prior to beginning any grant funded work.



QUESTIONS AND MORE INFORMATION

Any questions regarding the Letters of Interest and Formal Applications should be directed to:

Judy Leaks, Program Manager
Solano Transportation Authority
(707) 427-5104
jleaks@sta-snci.com

More information about the STA’s SR2S Program can be found online at www.solanosr2s.ca.gov

Below are links to SR2S Enforcement Best Practices:

- National SRTS: Role for Law Enforcement resources & case studies
<http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/lawenforcement/>
- SRTS Coaching Action Network Webinars on Personal Security & Parent/Student Education
http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/training/can_webinars.cfm
- National SRTS Adult School Crossing Guard Guidelines
http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/guide/crossing_guard/index.cfm

SR2S Advisory Committee Enforcement Contacts

- Tim Mattos, Suisun City Police Dept
(707) 421-7353, tmattos@suisun.com
- Scott Przekurat, Benicia Police Dept
(707) 746-4262,
Scott.Przekurat@ci.benicia.ca.us