SRTS Round 3 Application Period Begins Dec. 8

**Startup, Planning and General Grants**  
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Schools and municipalities that have initiated their **Safe Routes to School (SRTS)** programs will be well positioned to apply for Round 3 reimbursement grants when the **8-week application period** begins on Monday, Dec. 8, 2008.

This 100 percent federally funded program enables and encourages school children between kindergarten and 8th grade to **safely walk and/or ride bicycles between home and school**. It serves students, including those with disabilities, who live within approximately two miles of school.

Applications must be filed with both the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) for the appropriate area and with the N.H. Department of Transportation (NHDOT). The deadline for submitting applications is the close of business on **Monday, Feb. 2, 2009**. (Applications will be accepted by e-mail or fax, followed by a hard copy.)

Application forms and the scoring criteria can be obtained from the [SRTS Web site](#) or by contacting the **coordinator**.

Effective local SRTS programs use the concept known as the “**5Es:**”

**Evaluation**  
**Education**  
**Encouragement**  
**Enforcement**  
**Engineering**

The applications and scoring criteria are designed to give higher marks to programs and projects that reflect this comprehensive approach. Any proposal for an infrastructure project should be based on a **travel plan** that documents that it would become part of a safe route for walking and/or bicycling to school. An application or related travel plan
should also describe efforts to educate children in pedestrian and bicycling safety, encourage them to walk or ride bikes, and address any law enforcement issues.

Startup, Planning and General Grants

A major change for this cycle is that separate criteria and forms have been designed for the three categories of SRTS grants:

1. **Startup grants** of up to $5,000 to cover the initial expenses of conducting surveys, holding meetings, engaging in non-infrastructure activities, and drafting a basic travel plan.

2. **Comprehensive travel plan grants** of up to $15,000 per school. These grants will pay for more in-depth plans that address the 5Es, including prioritized infrastructure projects.

3. **General grants** that can include infrastructure and/or non-infrastructure programs and projects. These grants will be based on travel plans that are included in the application or developed as a separate document. The cap for infrastructure projects remains at $100,000 per project (generally defined as one project per school).

Applicants are invited to consult with the coordinator and/or the RPCs for an informal assessment of their projects. This preliminary review will occur prior to the formal scoring by the RPCs, and is intended to assist local communities in preparing quality applications. Using this service will not affect the filing deadline of Feb. 2, 2009, so communities should schedule accordingly.

After the filing period closes, RPCs will have until March 30, 2009 to evaluate and score the applications. The Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC) will then meet with applicants at public meetings. The committee will make funding recommendations to Commissioner George Campbell. NHDOT is scheduled to announce the awards on June 15, 2009.

Surveys

A critical first step for a local SRTS program is an evaluation of current school transportation issues. **SRTS makes this part easy.** An in-class survey of students and a take-home questionnaire for parents will give local planners valuable data. Complete instructions and survey forms are available for download from the “Getting Started” page on the state’s SRTS Web site: [http://www.nh.gov/dot/bureaus/planning/SRTS_getting_started.htm](http://www.nh.gov/dot/bureaus/planning/SRTS_getting_started.htm)
Need Help? Contact the Coordinator or Your RPC

Starting a local SRTS program can seem complicated and confusing, but help is available from the coordinator and RPCs. Interested in finding out more? The coordinator will travel to your community to meet with local leaders at your convenience (early morning as well as evening appointments are available). Using a PowerPoint presentation, he will give an overview of the program, answer any questions, and encourage a discussion of local conditions.

Get Your Story Out

Visit the New Hampshire’s SRTS Web site to see what other Granite State communities are up to. If your school and community are sponsoring SRTS-related events – from walking school buses to bike rodeos – let the coordinator know.

No Spam

This SRTS electronic newsletter is a resource for individuals and communities that are interested in the program. Feel free to forward it. Please notify the coordinator if you prefer to be added to or removed from the distribution list.

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