



## Safe Routes to School Mini-grants

### Call for Applications

Applications are now being accepted for Safe Routes to School mini-grants. The goal of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs is to enable and encourage children to safely walk and bicycle to school. SRTS programs are implemented nationwide by parents, schools, community leaders, and local, state, and tribal governments.

The aim of the mini-grants is to use student creativity and leadership skills to increase safe walking and bicycling to school. Successful applications will include one or a combination of the following: student-led activities, concern for the environment, and/or promotion of physical activity. Activities funded by the mini-grants must be part of a new or existing Safe Routes to School program.

### Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include:

- Faculty, staff, or parent volunteers at elementary or middle schools;
- Adult-supervised elementary or middle school groups or clubs;
- Adult-supervised high school groups/clubs that wish to partner with a nearby elementary or middle school;
- Local governments;
- Tribal governments; and/or
- Community-based or private non-profit organizations engaged in improving safety for and increasing the number of children who safely walk or ride a bicycle to school.

### Eligible Activities

The schools at which mini-grant activities will occur must be elementary or middle schools. These schools must be either starting new SRTS activities or events, or currently conducting SRTS activities and want to expand them.

The National Center is providing mini-grants for creative ideas that are youth-focused and that may explore related issues such as: How do students encourage their peers and the adults in their lives to walk and bicycle safely to school? How do students and others make the connection between safe routes to school and environmental or physical activity issues?

Example eligible activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Students encouraging peers/parents to find opportunities to walk or bicycle, starting with the trip to school.
- Students connecting the choice to walk or bicycle with helping the environment.
- Students connecting the choice to walk or bicycle with better health.
- Students developing messages for parents/other drivers to drive safely, especially in school zones and neighborhoods.

From carbon calculators to social marketing campaigns, from audits of school environments to communicating with local politicians and/or government officials, submit a proposal for a project that can make a difference at your school or community.

Activities funded by the mini-grants must have the potential to have long-term impacts.

Although it is not required, applicants may want to collect student travel data as part of their application in order to have more information about current rates of walking and bicycling to school. This information may help applicants decide on appropriate activities. For more information about data collection, and for student travel tally forms, please see [www.saferoutesinfo.org/data](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/data).

## **Selection Criteria**

All applications that meet the eligibility requirements above will be reviewed by a committee that will aim to make awards to:

- A broad geographic distribution of recipients;
- Applicants representing a variety of program types;
- Applicants who provide a clear description of how funding will be used to begin new programs or advance current projects or programs with activities that fit with eligibility requirements outlined above; and
- Projects or programs that align with SRTS goals of encouraging more children to walk and bicycle to school safely.

## **Funding Restrictions**

Mini-grant funds may **not** be used for staff salaries, fundraising, food or refreshments, or cash prizes.

The mini-grant funds are Federal funds, and there are Federal restrictions on how the funds are spent. If you have questions about funding eligibility for specific activities, please email [info@saferoutesinfo.org](mailto:info@saferoutesinfo.org).

## **Reporting Requirements**

Mini-grant recipients will be required to submit an informal written report on activities midway through the implementation period. Recipients will also be required to submit a formal report at the end of the implementation period (June/July 2010) that provides information about the project. The formal report will include the following:

- Budget report of actual expenditures
- Description of the project's activities, challenges, successes, and participation rates
- At least three digital pictures that show one or more activities of the funded project

Mini-grant recipients may be required to complete a brief questionnaire after the grant period.

## **About the National Center for Safe Routes to School**

The National Center for Safe Routes to School assists communities in enabling and encouraging children to safely walk and bicycle to school. Established in May 2006, the National Center is maintained by the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center with funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. For additional information about the National Center for Safe Routes to School, please visit [www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org)

## Application Deadline

Applications are due **October 30, 2009**. Applications may be submitted in three ways.

1. Submit electronically at [www.saferoutesinfo.org/minigrants](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/minigrants).
2. Fax to:  
(919) 962-8710  
Attention: Pam Barth  
National Center for Safe Routes to School
3. Mail to:  
Attention: Pam Barth  
National Center for Safe Routes to School  
730 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Suite 300  
Campus Box 3430  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-3430

Applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of the application.

Mini-grant recipients will be announced by December 1, 2009. Activities must be completed by the end of the Spring 2010 semester or by June 15, 2010, whichever date is first.

E-mail any questions to [info@saferoutesinfo.org](mailto:info@saferoutesinfo.org).

## Application

To apply for the NCSRTS mini-grant, please complete the following form.

Applicant Information:

- Primary contact's name:
- School/Organization/Agency name:
- Phone number:
- Email address:
- Mailing address:

School(s) where activities will be conducted (if different from above):

- School name:
- Mailing address:
- Name of the school administrator who has approved this application:

If the applicant is a school group or club, please provide the following:

- Group/club name:
- Names of lead student participants:
- Names and positions of faculty advisor(s):

Please help NCSRTS know more about the school where the activities will be conducted.

Grade Range

- Elementary
- Middle
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Type

- Public
- Private
- Charter
- Magnet
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

