

2023 Safe Routes to Parks: Pennsylvania Activating Communities

Application FAQs

Questions that we receive at parks@saferoutespartnership.org and answers will be posted on this page throughout the application period.

1. Who do I contact if I have any questions or need assistance?

Please send an email to parks@saferoutespartnership.org if you have any questions about the application or the Safe Routes to Parks Pennsylvania Activating Communities program.

2. Is it possible to save and return to the application at a later time?

No, once you begin the application form, it cannot be saved and re-opened. We encourage you to view a PDF of the application form [here](#), compose your answers in a word processor, and input them into the application form when you are ready to submit.

3. Writing isn't our organization's strong suit, can we submit a video or audio recording instead?

Yes, we want to make sure that this application process includes organizations with different areas of expertise. If you are interested in submitting an alternative format, please contact us at parks@saferoutespartnership.org to discuss.

4. How do I share supporting documents for the application?

Please send supporting documents such as letters of support, maps, print or web media, etc. to parks@saferoutespartnership.org. Be sure to include the organization's name and staff contact in the email. Please note that, with the exception of a letter of support from the jurisdiction you are working within, supplemental materials are not required.

5. How will I know that you received my application?

Upon hitting "submit" on your completed application form, a window will appear automatically thanking you for your submission. This message indicates that we have received your application form. For any supporting documents emailed to parks@saferoutespartnership.org, you should receive an email confirmation within 24-48 hours to confirm receipt of your materials.

6. What is the anticipated start date of assistance, if received? How long is the technical assistance expected to last?

Technical assistance will likely begin mid-January through September 30, 2023.

7. Is the consultation and technical assistance a requirement for the Safe Routes to Parks Activating Communities program?

Yes, the technical assistance is an important part of this program. As a part of the program, all grantee organizations will receive individualized consultation and technical assistance with expert staff including monthly calls and a two-day action plan workshop led by Safe Routes Partnership staff. The Safe Routes Partnership's staff areas of expertise are:

- Planning, Policies, and Programs (Please note we do not conduct engineering studies or plans.)
- Education, Training, and Capacity Building
- Research and Data Collection
- Campaign Development
- Funding for Sustainable Transportation
- Community Engagement and Coalition Development

We have found that the combination of the consultation/technical assistance and grant funds help communities create both short- and long-term improvements to safe local park access.

8. What can Safe Routes to Parks Activating Communities program grant funds be used for?

The grant of \$10,000 must be used for the grantee community's Safe Routes to Parks planning process and implementation activities. Grantees will be required to report on the expenditure of grant funds. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Implementing advocacy training with community members
- Hosting a greening/park cleanup day
- Tactical urbanism pop-up/demonstration project for any of the construction/improvements listed below
- Creating/improving wayfinding signage
- Acquiring rights-of-way
- Moving utility boxes/poles
- Maintenance
- Street design
 - Adding or improving physical infrastructure to support walking/biking to the park, including sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic calming, widened shoulders, upgrading crossings, bike lanes, signal timing, lighting, etc.
 - Streetscaping improvements that promote physical comfort and aesthetic improvements to the route, including: shade trees, benches, water fountains, landscaping
- Anti-street harassment public service campaign
- Developing a Safe Passages Program
- Addressing dilapidated buildings/blight/dumping

9. Is a local government agency eligible for the Safe Routes to Parks Activating Communities program?

No, only non-profits that are 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt are eligible for this program.

10. How many communities will be selected for this round? Can a previous grantee apply again?

In total, four communities located in the state of Pennsylvania will be selected. Safe Routes Partnership is looking to select organizations representative of the geographic diversity of the state. Previous grantees from Pennsylvania will not be awarded through this program again.

11. Are there specific outcomes or reporting that are expected as part of this program?

Yes, each grantee community is expected to plan and implement community engagement and assessment activities that will inform their action plan to improve safe, equitable local park access, as well as implement at least one action from the plan. Our staff will facilitate the development of your action plan by leading a two-day workshop and drafting and compiling your action plan, which includes community-identified priorities discussed during the workshop, as well as ideas for how to fund and sustain your efforts. It is our hope that your organization will use this resource to continue improving safe, equitable park access in your community.

In addition, grantees are expected to complete a brief final report at the end of the grant, as well as an evaluation of the action plan workshop and an overall experience assessment of the program.

12. Can this award be combined with existing funding our organization has?

Yes, we encourage you to leverage your resources to improve safe, equitable local park access by combining this award with existing funding.