$S \mid S$ Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

Quarterly Newsletter – February 2024

About SS4A

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the <u>Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)</u> discretionary grant program with \$5 billion in appropriated funds over five years. The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.

The SS4A program supports the U.S. Department of Transportation's goal of zero roadway deaths using a <u>Safe System Approach</u>.

Welcome

As the SS4A Team reflects on the past year, we are excited to share our progress in the first edition of our quarterly newsletter. This publication will share program updates, highlight key developments, and provide a sneak peek into upcoming activities.

The last quarter was filled with planning efforts as the team gathered stakeholders' feedback to inform our training priorities. We translated our takeaways into action by planning and facilitating an initial webinar for FY23 grant recipients and an SS4A Community of Practice kick-off meeting. We also began developing comprehensive trainings that will provide key information that recipients need to take full advantage of the benefits and resources that the SS4A grant program has to offer.

In This Edition





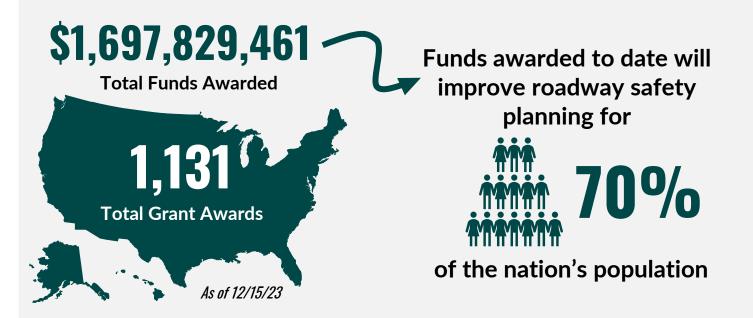
What's New?

On December 13, 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced 385 new SS4A grants totaling \$813 million to regional, local, and Tribal communities. With this latest announcement, SS4A has provided \$1.7 billion in Federal funding to over 1,000 communities in all 50 States and Puerto Rico.

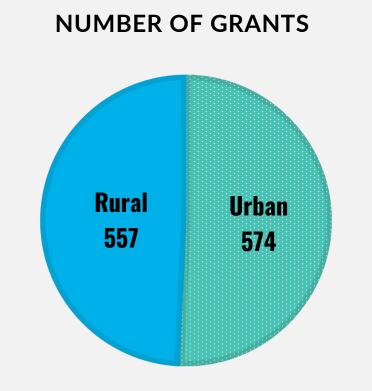
Awarded projects will help the nation's cities, counties, metropolitan planning organizations, and Tribal governments address roadway safety challenges in their communities by identifying and implementing solutions to make our streets, roads, and highways safer for all roadway users.



Overall Program Impact



Recipient Communities



NUMBER OF GRANTS

Planning and Demonstration Grants 474

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FY2022

572 FY2023

Implementation Grants





Past Events

Community of Practice Kick-off Webinar

View the recording

On November 29th, 2023, the SS4A team introduced its Community of Practice (CoP) to 732 virtual attendees. DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg kicked off the webinar with recorded remarks about the importance of collaboration, FHWA described the purpose and benefits of the CoP, and Tiffany Smith, from the Vision Zero Network, shared recommendations for building strong coalitions.

FY23 Grant Recipients Introductory Webinar

View the recording

This webinar covered SS4A program phases and their requirements—including completion of the grant agreement; highlighted available program support; and explained stakeholder roles and responsibilities.

Upcoming Events

Community of Practice Peer Exchanges

Virtual - 2024 Q1 (Date and time TBD)

This will be a FHWA-facilitated discussion for SS4A grant recipients to share challenges and insights, to identify opportunities for collaboration, and to request feedback from SS4A grant recipients.



Bulletin Board: SS4A in the Media

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

SS4A got a shoutout on Instagram from Secretary Pete Buttigieg: "No one knows better which intersections are too dangerous, or which roads let cars go too fast, better than the people who live there. That's why President Biden created the Safe Streets & Roads For All program, which will fund solutions to make communities safer." <u>See the post.</u>



Local news outlets

Following the announcement of FY23 grants, an immediate surge of enthusiasm appeared to broadcast their communities wins, including:

- "<u>Anderson County gets \$200k Safe Streets for All grant. Here's how it will be used</u>." Anderson Independent Mail
- <u>"Milwaukee safe streets funding, \$4M federal grant for projects"</u> Fox6 Milwaukee
- <u>"Middletown to receive federal grant to improve safety on roads"</u> NBC Connecticut
- <u>"West Columbia secures \$288,000 grant to pave the way for safer streets"</u> ABC Columbia



SS4A Grant Recipient Roadmap Overview - Coming soon

The 2023 training needs analysis indicated that as grant recipients begin their journey with the SS4A program, it can be challenging to identify the steps in the grant process and know what to expect throughout the program. The SS4A Grant Recipient Roadmap Overview video will describe the SS4A program phases and their associated activities, outcomes, and expectations in order to help grant recipients contextualize where they are in the grant process

2 CFR 200 Training - Procurement Standards - Coming soon

This resource aims to help grant recipients understand the authority of 2 CFR 200 procurement standards in relation to SS4A program regulation and guidance. The training document will summarize the general procurement standards, methods of procurement, minority vendor and bonding requirements, as well as describe when to execute competitive vs. non-competitive procurements.

One-on-one Technical Assistance – Available now

Submit your request using this form

The SS4A Technical Assistance Center (TAC) is part of the broader grant program and provides information and educational resources, including one-on-one technical assistance, for SS4A grant recipients. Use the link above to request one-on-one technical assistance from the SS4A TAC.

Project spotlight: Making Rural Communities Safer

Rural road users remain disproportionately affected by crash-related fatalities. GHSA's <u>America's Rural</u> <u>Roads: Beautiful and Deadly</u> report found that in 2020, the risk of dying in a crash was 62 percent higher on a rural road compared to an urban road for the same trip length.

USDOT recognized the importance of providing specialized assistance to vulnerable rural road users. To date, SS4A has awarded \$346 million in grants to 557 rural communities, constituting almost half of the overall awards in the program.

These rural communities are receiving Federal funding for the development and implementation of their safety action plans and projects while benefitting from the specialized technical assistance and trainings that the SS4A team is developing.

Through the allocation of awards to rural communities, USDOT showcases its commitment toward the goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries on our nation's roadways.

\$346 Million in grants to 557 rural communities



