Resources for Applying to Federal Grants
About Smart Growth America
Smart Growth America envisions a country where no matter where you live, or who you are, you can enjoy living in a place that is healthy, prosperous, and resilient.

We empower communities through technical assistance, advocacy, and thought leadership to realize our vision of livable places, healthy people, and shared prosperity.
SGA Programmatic Priorities

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
Tips and Tricks for Applications
Positioning Applications for Success

1. Prioritize applications from region
2. Match project objectives to the program criteria
   a. Don’t have to hit all criteria but should fit 2-3 really well
   b. Eligibility criteria in terms of project and applicant, time limitations, etc.
   c. Remove uncertainty on cost, timing, etc.
3. Tell story clearly enough that someone not from your community and not familiar with your project can understand.
   a. Clear description of projects, current conditions and expected outcomes.
   b. Use lots of maps and pictures.
4. Build a strong, broad coalition of support
   a. Partners on project
   b. Supporters in delegation
Things That Set You Apart

1. Strategic approach to how you use your funding.
2. Have limited, clear regional goals that you measure and can explain. Connect them to local trends.
3. Submit regional priorities, not the thing you couldn’t get to. Have federal funding be the final funding, not first in.
4. Good track record of delivering projects and achieving outcomes.
Safe Streets and Roads for All
Keep in Mind

1) Nearly $1 billion is available for planning grants that can also support quick-build demonstration projects.

2) You can do a lot of quick-builds with just a little bit of money.

3) This application is one of the simplest you’ll see from USDOT.

4) This money comes directly to a local jurisdiction, or to multiple jurisdictions in a joint application.

5) Cities applying for planning dollars have a great chance to receive funding.

6) Receiving a planning grant is a smart step toward a future implementation grant.
Local Infrastructure Hub

Registration now open!
Courses to help small and mid-sized cities develop competitive infrastructure grant applications

Learn More
Support Available

USDOT Action Plan Eligibility Worksheet
Where to Start on the Road to Vision Zero
Guidelines for Creating an Effective Vision Zero Action Plan
Core Elements for Vision Zero Communities
Nine Components of a Strong Vision Zero Commitment

5 Reasons to Apply for a Safe Streets for All Grant (+ Tips for Success)
Action Plans: March 7 from 1:30-3:00 pm EDT:
https://usdot.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_2Y4CmLlgS967uMc3wlPw3g

Supplemental Planning and Demonstration: March 8 from 1:30-3:00:
https://usdot.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_trMWXSA8T1GCgw27_sgTnA

Implementation: March 13 from 1:30-3:00:
https://usdot.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_1RFY5mSMSxSElyV22oabrQ