

# 2024 Safe Routes to Parks Colorado Activating Communities

## Application FAQs

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

Please send an email to [parks@saferoutespartnership.org](mailto:parks@saferoutespartnership.org) if you have any questions about the application or the Safe Routes to Parks Colorado 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 begin January 8, 2024 and run through September 30, 2024.

### 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, along with support from the Colorado state team. 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 and 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 to advance their specific Safe Routes to Parks strategy and towards the planning and implementation process (refer to the *Program Strategies*.) Grantees will be required to report on the expenditure of grant funds.

Examples of how grant funds can be used towards advancing specific program strategies:

<b>Program Strategy</b>	<b>Specific Ways Funds Could Be Applied</b>
<b>Integrate Safe Routes to Parks into Safe Routes to School.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hosting a Bike and Roll to School Day based in a park</li> <li>● Activating a route between a school and a park with wayfinding signage</li> <li>● Adding or improving physical infrastructure to a route between a park and a school either as a demonstration or permanent installation</li> </ul>
<b>Install traffic gardens as a strategy to elevate park access needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implementing a temporary or permanent traffic garden installation(s)</li> <li>● Any associated planning costs including community engagement, event programming to activate the park and draw in users for the traffic garden</li> <li>● Purchase of a bike fleet or bike repair services to improve community access</li> </ul>
<b>Apply for federal transportation funds to sustain long-term planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grant funds can be applied as a match for the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Safe Streets for All planning grant</li> <li>● Community engagement and assessment activities to inform priorities – ex. walk audits, pop-up events, community surveys, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Pilot traffic calming zones around parks.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pilot traffic calming measures around a park in the form of tactical urbanism pop-up or demonstration project</li> <li>● Evaluation to measure the effectiveness of treatments</li> <li>● Event planning and community programming to build support and solicit feedback</li> </ul>

Additional examples include, but are not limited to:

- Implementing advocacy training with community members
- Hosting a greening/park cleanup day
- Tactical urbanism pop-up or demonstration project for any of the construction/improvements listed below (Read [here](#) on how temporary installations can be used to develop safe routes.)
- 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.
  - improvements that promote physical comfort and aesthetic improvements to the route, including: shade trees, benches, water fountains, landscaping
- Creating/improving wayfinding signage
- Acquiring rights-of-way
- Moving utility boxes/poles
- Maintenance
- Community campaigns to promote welcoming and inclusive routes and address concerns of harassment or bullying
- Developing a Safe Passages Program to address public safety along routes
- 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; however, grantees must have commitment and participation from a local government agency as part of their Safe Routes to Parks team.

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

In total, four communities located in Colorado will be selected. Safe Routes Partnership is looking to select communities located in areas across the state that have higher disparities in health outcomes, park access, and bicycle and pedestrian crashes to work to address these issues. Previous grantees from Colorado 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.

**13. Can our community focus on improving access to state parks?**

Grantees can focus on increasing access to a state park if it serves as a local park for their community.

**14. Can we focus on increasing park access by improving public transit?**

Since the program strategies are primarily focused on improving biking, walking, and rolling conditions, we encourage communities interested in improving transit access to parks to use this program to focus on improving the ability of community members to bike, walk, or roll safely to transit stops.