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SS4A Grant Application Preparation Checklist

Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

is a federal grant program established in the <u>Bipartisan Infrastructure Law</u> (BIL) intended to support regional, local, and Tribal public safety initiatives, including infrastructure equity, crime reduction, power resilience, and sustainability. This is very likely the largest federal infrastructure investment in our lifetime.

Combining the <u>FY22</u> and <u>FY23</u> awards, SS4A has provided \$1.7 billion in federal funding to over 1,000 communities across the country. SS4A funding awarded to date will improve roadway safety planning for about 70 percent of the nation's population.

We are entering the third year of this five-year grant program, but there is speculation that the remaining two years (after FY 24) could be cancelled after the presidential election. Hence, the future of funds is not certain, and we strongly encourage communities to apply during the FY24 grant cycle.

There are two kinds of SS4A Grants available:

Planning and Demonstration Grants

Planning and Demonstration Grants provide federal funds to develop, complete, or supplement an Action Plan. The goal of an Action Plan is to develop a holistic, well-defined strategy to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries in a locality, Tribal area, or region. According to grant analysts, competition to date in this category has been scant and there has been an almost 100% approval rate for qualified applicants. Due to this grant program being undersubscribed in prior years, there is a \$256 million surplus in this category, which creates a total of \$656 million in available funds for this year's grant cycle.

Implementation Grants

Implementation Grants provide Federal funds to implement projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan to address a roadway safety problem. Eligible projects and strategies can be infrastructural, behavioral, and/or operational activities. According to grant analysts, Implementation Grants are seeing a 1 out of 5 (20%) approval rate and competition in this category has been high. \$600 million is this year's (FY24) allocation as allotted by Congress.

The 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has a few key differences compared to prior funding cycles.

There is a \$256 million surplus which will result in US DOT disbursing \$656 million (versus \$400 million as allotted by Congress in a normal grant cycle year) for Planning and Demonstration Grants Those who apply for Implementation Grants (May deadline) and are not awarded, may want to re-apply under Demonstration Grant (August deadline) IF their project can benefit from partial funding under a pilot status and meet the requirements of a pilot project.

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Step by Step Approach to SS4A

1. Decide which grant type(s) will best serve your goals, suits your state of readiness, and has the highest likelihood of a successful application.

2. Action Plan (\$100,000 - \$10,000,000)

April 4, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT): Deadline #1 for Planning and Demonstration Grants. May 16, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT): Deadline #2 for Planning and Demonstration Grants. August 29, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT): Deadline #3 for Planning and Demonstration Grants. NOFO closes. Planning and Demonstration Grant applicants are not eligible for pre-application reviews.

3. Implementation Grant (\$2,500,000 - \$25,000,000)

a. May 16, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT): Sole deadline for Implementation Grants.

b. Eligible entities that are planning to submit an Implementation Grant application may submit their Action Plan(s) for pre-application review so that USDOT may affirm or provide details regarding whether the Action Plan meets the eligibility requirements to apply for an Implementation Grant. Each applicant may request only one Action Plan review. Complete pre-application submissions must be received by April 17, 2024.

4. Key things you must do to apply:

- **a.** Obtain UEI Before submitting your materials, you must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number to apply. To request a UEI, please visit Sam.gov. Note: It may take up to 30 days to receive a UEI.
- b. Register in Valid Eval
 - Valid Eval is a third-party web-based evaluation platform used by USDOT and other Federal programs to support application submissions and evaluation. Applicants will submit their grant applications via Valid Eval.
 - Do Not Apply through Grants.gov. You must apply for SS4A grants through Valid Eval. Grants.gov will have the opportunity posted, but you cannot apply through Grants.gov.
- c. Self-Certification Eligibility Worksheet (mandatory for Implementation Grant applicants OR Planning and Demonstration Grant applicants requesting funds for supplemental planning and/or demonstration activities only and are not in the process of developing an Action Plan)

5. Application Process

a. 4 Standard Forms

- Planning SF424, SF424A, SF424B, SFLLL
- Implementation SF...424, 424C, 424D, LLL

b. Justice 40 – 2 tools available on US DOT site (Equitable Transportation and Climate and Economic Justice Screening)

6. Applicants who received Planning and Demonstration Grants or Implementation Grants in FY22 or FY23 may apply for additional SS4A funding for <u>new activities</u> in FY24, FY25, and/or FY26.

7. Application must include three statistics from the transportation department's publicly available data:

- a. total roadway deaths over the last five years
- b. average annual fatality rate for the last five years and the
- c. percentage of the community's population that is considered "underserved."

8. Webinars on FY24 SS4A program

- a. Action Plans
- b. Supplemental and Demonstration Grants
- c. Implementation Grants



About Ubicquia

Ubicquia is the leader in intelligent solutions that can be deployed on over 360 million compatible streetlights around the world. Our intelligent lighting controllers, smart city technology, and grid monitoring platforms reduce energy consumption, enhance public safety, and lower operations and maintenance costs.

Solutions Eligible for SS4A Grant Funds (US DOT recognized Proven Countermeasures)

UbiCell is an intelligent lighting management system controller that allows for precise dimming and scheduling of streetlights to:

- Reduce glare
- Improve visibility
- Improve driver and pedestrian safety
- Increase illumination (on-demand) to aid first responders when an accident occurs

UbiHub is a smart city platform that integrates cameras, microphones, edge AI, and Wi-Fi, , powered by streetlights, that supports:

- Vehicle speed detection and notification
- Vehicle wrong way detection
- License Plate Recognition (LPR) solutions
- Situational awareness cameras for pedestrian safety