

ZERO IS OUR GOAL
A SAFE SYSTEM IS HOW WE GET THERE



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Initial Webinar for Grant Recipients

March 1, 2023

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Safety
FHWA Office of Acquisition and Grants Management



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

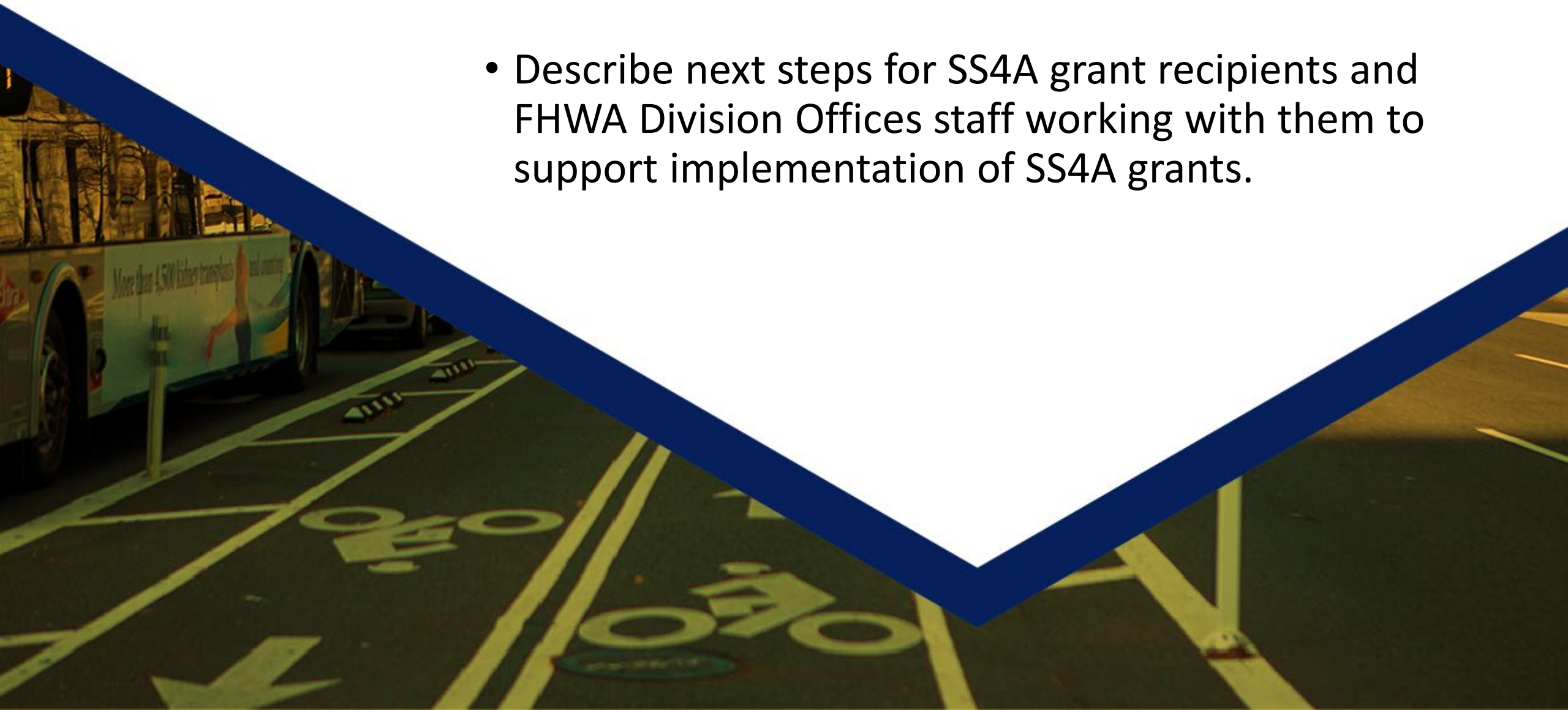


Disclaimer

Except for any statutes and regulations cited, the contents of this presentation do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind grant recipients in any way. This presentation is intended only to provide information and clarity on existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Webinar Purpose

- Describe next steps for SS4A grant recipients and FHWA Division Offices staff working with them to support implementation of SS4A grants.





Presenters

- FHWA Office of Safety, SS4A Team
 - Jason Broehm
 - Jessica Rich
 - Christie Dawson
- FHWA Office of Acquisition and Grants Management, Grants Support Team
 - Ashley Cucchiarelli



Agenda

- Program Overview
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Key Program Requirements
- Preparing for Kick-off Meeting
- Q&A



Program Overview

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Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants

Key program that supports the National Roadway Safety Strategy



Funding supports local initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets, commonly referred to as “Vision Zero” or “Toward Zero Deaths” Initiatives.

\$1 billion in annual funding, FY22-26

National Roadway Safety Strategy

U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) comprehensive approach to significantly reducing serious injuries and deaths on our Nation's highways, roads, and streets.

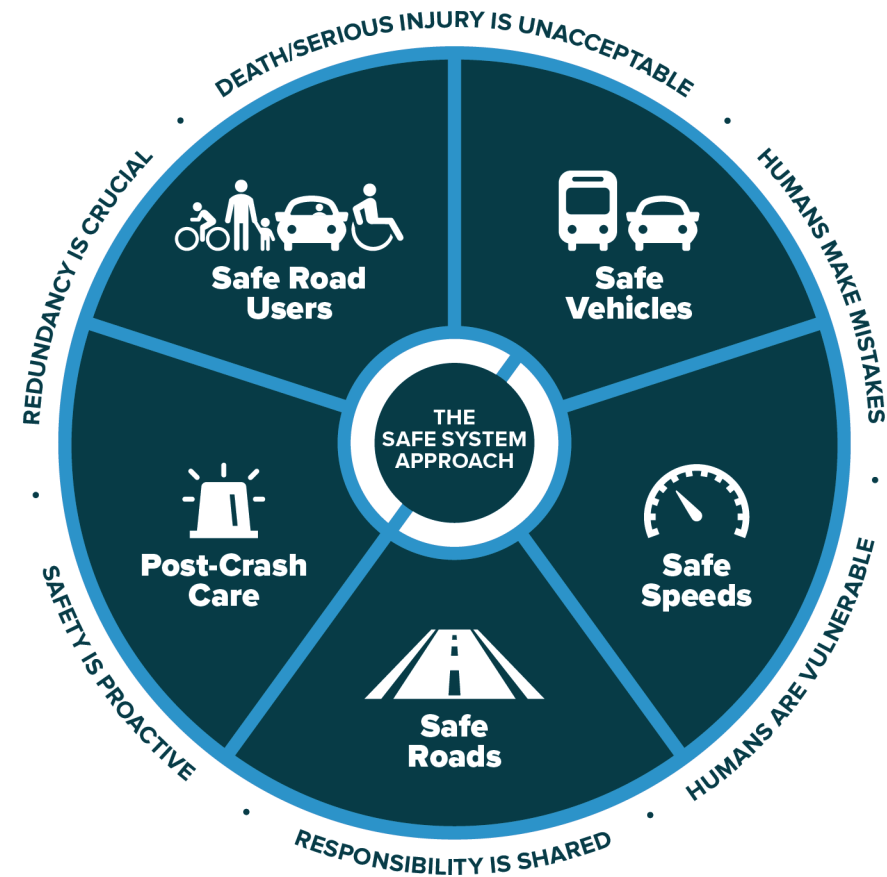
- **Sets a vision and goal** for the safety of the Nation's roadways.
- **Adopts the Safe System Approach** principles to guide our safety actions.
- **Identifies new priority actions and notable changes to existing practices** and approaches that target our most significant and urgent problems and are, therefore, expected to have the most substantial impact.
- **Call to Action** We will be partnering with stakeholders to identify actions to get us closer to zero roadway fatalities.
- www.transportation.gov/NRSS



Source: NHTSA

The Safe System Approach: Principles

- Death/serious injury is unacceptable.
- Humans make mistakes.
- Humans are vulnerable.
- Responsibility is shared.
- Safety is proactive.
- Redundancy is crucial.



Basics of Roadway Safety

Effective roadway safety practices and strategies:

- State Strategic Highway Safety Plans & local safety plans
- Vision Zero
- Toward Zero Deaths
- Complete Streets
- Proven Safety Countermeasures
- Countermeasures That Work
- Innovative practices and technologies



Saxman, Alaska, Senior Center bus stop. Source: FHWA

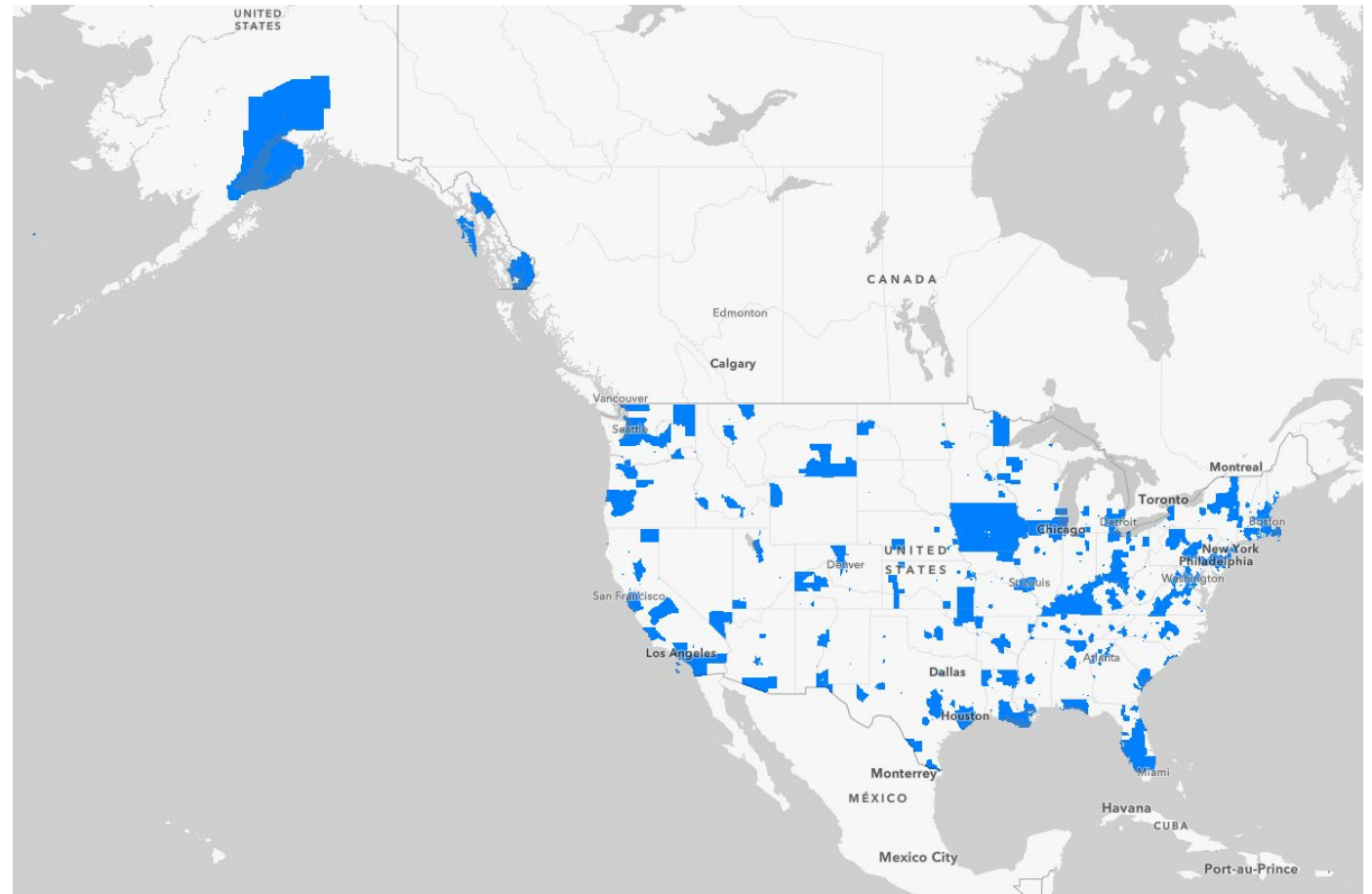
Types of SS4A Grants



- **Action Plan Grant**
 - Developing a comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan)
 - Supplemental planning activities: conducting planning, design and development activities for projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.
- **Implementation Grant:**
 - Carrying out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.
 - Associated supplemental planning activities: conducting planning, design and development activities for projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.

Overview of FY 2022 SS4A Grants

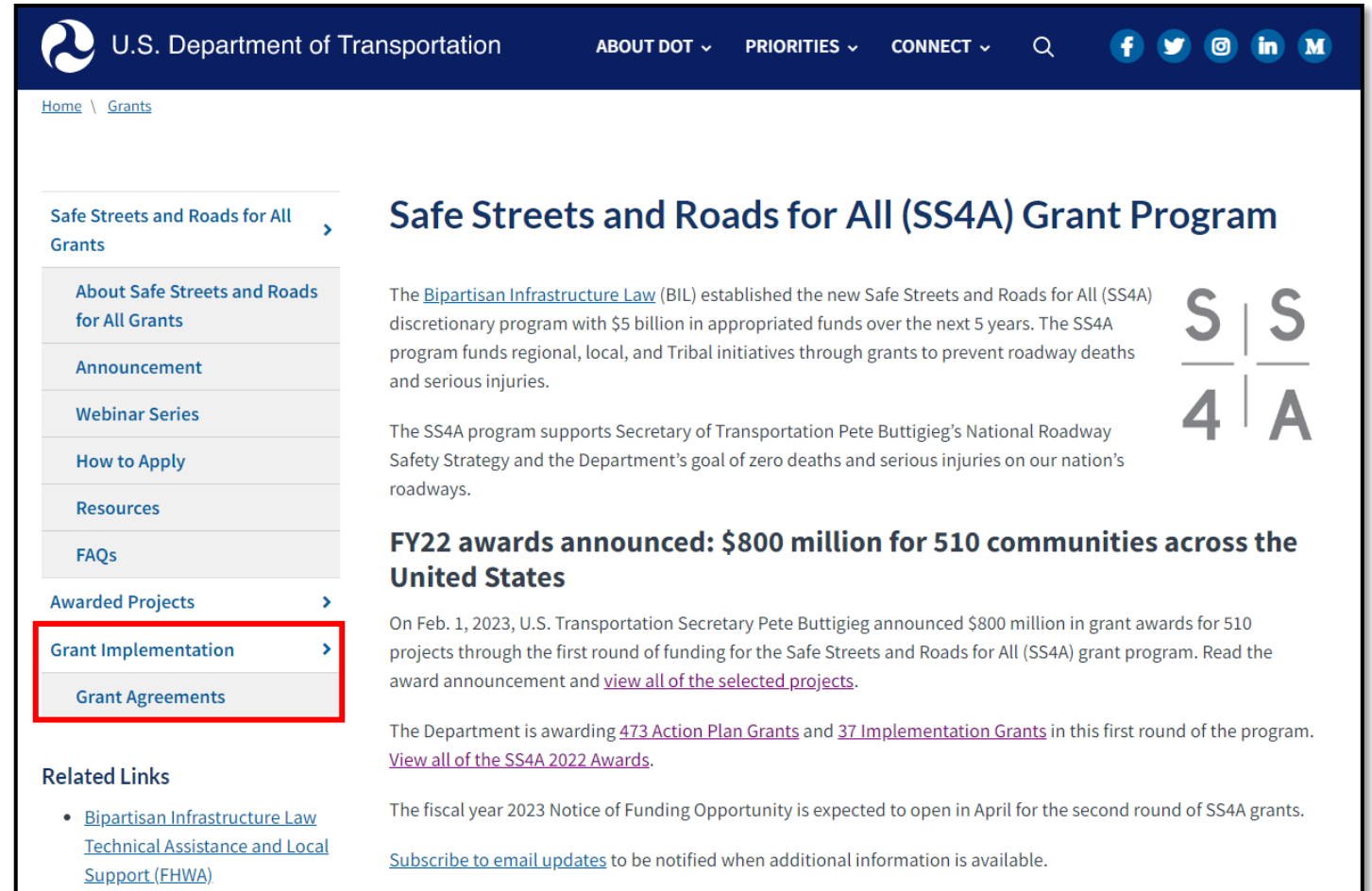
- 510 projects were selected for FY 2022 grants
 - 473 Action Plan Grants
 - 37 Implementation Grants
- More than \$800 million total
- Funds for improved safety planning for over half the nation's population



<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/2022-awards>

SS4A Website

- Resources
 - Safe System Approach
 - Equity
 - Developing an Action Plan
- FAQs
- Related Links & Documents
 - USDOT National Roadway Safety Strategy
 - Complete Streets
 - Proven Safety Countermeasures
 - Zero Deaths
- Webinar recordings



The screenshot shows the U.S. Department of Transportation website. The top navigation bar includes the DOT logo, the text "U.S. Department of Transportation", and menu items for "ABOUT DOT", "PRIORITIES", and "CONNECT". Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube are also present. The main content area is titled "Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program". It features a sub-header "Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants" with a dropdown arrow. Below this is a list of links: "About Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants", "Announcement", "Webinar Series", "How to Apply", "Resources", "FAQs", "Awarded Projects", "Grant Implementation" (highlighted with a red box), and "Grant Agreements". The main text describes the SS4A program, its funding, and recent announcements, including a \$800 million award for 510 communities in FY22. A large "SS4A" logo is visible on the right side of the page.

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>



Roles and Responsibilities

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Roles and Responsibilities: Office of the Secretary



- **Office of the Secretary of Transportation:**

- Administers the SS4A Discretionary Grant Program with assistance from the Federal Highway Administration and other USDOT Operating Administrations
- Lead responsibility for pre-selection process (and related activities), including:
 - Developing Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
 - Handling grant application intake process
 - Leading grant evaluation process
 - Finalizing grant selections
 - Notifying grant recipients and announcing selections
 - Notifying unsuccessful applicants and coordinating debriefs

Roles and Responsibilities: FHWA



- **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA):**

- Focuses on post-selection grant agreement execution, grant administration, and stewardship and oversight of the grants.
 - **Office of Safety, SS4A Team:** Manages the SS4A Grant Program, supports FHWA Division Offices, and coordinates closely with the Office of the Secretary, provides technical assistance to grant recipients.
 - **Office of Acquisition and Grant Management:** Responsible for the budget and contractual components of the SS4A grants in consultation with Office of Safety and FHWA Division Offices.
 - **Office of Infrastructure:** Develops and maintains the stewardship and oversight framework for administering projects supported by the SS4A grants.
 - **Division Offices:** Serve as the principal FHWA point of contact for grant recipient, work with grant recipient to develop grant agreement, facilitate project implementation consistent with requirements and desired outcomes, and implement stewardship and oversight framework.

Roles and Responsibilities: Grant Recipient



- **Grant Recipient:**

- Works with FHWA Division Office to complete grant agreement
- Manages and delivers the project and is solely responsible for compliance with:
 - Grant agreement, including terms and conditions and exhibits
 - 2 CFR part 200
 - Additional legal requirements that may apply
- Periodically reports to FHWA on project progress and performance measures

Roles and Responsibilities in Grant Agreement Execution Process



- **Division Office & Grant Recipient:**

- Work together to develop grant agreement, adhering to approved grant agreement template
- Submit grant agreement to Office of Acquisition and Grants Management for review and later sign the grant agreement

- **Office of Acquisition and Grants Management:**

- Conduct 2 CFR part 200 risk assessment
- Conduct 2 CFR part 200 budget review
- When all steps are complete, grant agreement package is presented to FHWA Agreement Officer (AO) for review and final approval
- AO signs grant agreement, executing it
 - Obligates Federal grant funding
 - Permits grant recipient to begin work on project and begin incurring costs

Budget Review Process



- Office of Acquisition and Grants Management, in coordination with the FHWA Division Office, will determine whether grantees require a supplemental budget form and will inform them only if the form is required
- The vast majority of Action Plan Grants – and some Implementation Grants – are NOT expected to require the submission of a supplemental budget form
 - Grants less than \$1 million in Federal grant funding
 - Others will require a screening to determine whether a supplemental budget form is required



Key Program Requirements

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Uniform Guidance Requirements: 2 CFR part 200



- Where to find 2 CFR part 200: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II>
- FHWA National Highway Institute (NHI) offers a free, self-paced, online training on 2 CFR part 200:
 - Understanding the Uniform Guidance Requirements (2 CFR 200) for Federal Awards (course number FHWA-NHI-231034): https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/course-search?tab=0&key=2%20cfr%20200&sf=0&course_no=231034
 - Target Audience for the training: State DOTs, regional and local transportation agencies, and FHWA division and program staff. This course is important for any staff involved with Federal-aid projects and grants, including staff who support the management of finance, grants, programs, and projects.

Grant Agreement Required



- Per 2 CFR § 200.201(a), FHWA has determined that each project (Action Plan or Implementation) requires a grant agreement between FHWA and the Recipient to authorize the recipient to proceed.
- The grant agreement, including terms and conditions and exhibits, outlines the Federal requirements for the funded project.
- For Implementation Grants, the executed grant agreement serves as the mechanism to authorize SS4A funds for preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition, or construction.

Grant Agreement Execution



- Reimbursable work on the grant project shall not begin until the grant agreement is executed (signed by both the grant recipient and the FHWA Agreement Officer).
- Costs incurred prior to execution of the grant agreement are NOT ELIGIBLE for reimbursement and may not be used as matching funds.
 - Any work incurred prior to execution of the grant agreement will be considered non-participating funds.
- Requests for pre-award costs will not be approved in this first grant cycle.
- Recipient procurement procedures must conform to procurement standards identified in 2 CFR §§ 200.317-200.327

Reimbursement Program



- **Reimbursement:** As indicated in the NOFO, this program will be administered on a reimbursement basis.
 - Costs incurred to carry out activities proposed in the application, which may commence after the grant agreement is executed, will be eligible for reimbursement.

Cost Sharing and Matching



- The local matching share shall be **no less than 20 percent** of eligible activity costs.
- All matching funds must be from non-Federal sources unless specifically authorized by Congress, and could include in-kind contributions (following grant agreement execution), funding from the applicant, or other SS4A-eligible non-Federal sources partnering with the applicant.
- Unless otherwise authorized by statute, non-Federal cost-share may not be counted as the non-Federal share for both the SS4A grant and another Federal grant program.
- Learn more about cost sharing or matching in the Code of Federal Regulations' uniform guidance on match requirements (2 CFR § 200.306) and in SS4A Match and Cost Share Examples (<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/match-and-cost-share-examples>)

Expenditure of Federal Grant Funds



- All SS4A grant funds must be expended within 5 years of grant agreement execution.
 - Action Plan Grants: expected to be completed within 1-2 years of grant agreement execution.
 - Implementation Grants: funds must be expended within 5 years of grant agreement execution.

Parameters for State Involvement



- States are not eligible applicants for SS4A grants.
- SS4A grant agreements are directly between FHWA and the grant recipient.
 - SS4A grant agreements are not with State DOTs.
 - A state DOT cannot serve as a pass-through entity for these awards.
- However, a grant recipient may choose to work with a State DOT and provide SS4A grant funding to State DOTs to assist in the execution of the grant activities separately from the grant agreement. But the SS4A recipient retains responsibility for ensuring completion of the grant activities and for compliance with the terms of the grant award and federal requirements.
 - Under 2 CFR § 200.331, the recipient must determine whether such arrangement is contractual, such as an interagency agreement, or a subgrant. As provided at 2 CFR § 200.300(b), the recipient is responsible for compliance with all Federal requirements applicable to the award. States will not have direct funding relationships with USDOT.



Preparing for Kick-off Meeting

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Materials to Review in Preparation for the Kick-Off Meeting

- NOFO
- Grant Award Information
- Grant Application
- Grant Agreement Template, including Terms and Conditions and Exhibits
- Supplemental Budget Form (if required)

Questions?

For any questions following the webinar, please reach out to the FHWA Division Office POC for your grant. If you need help identifying this POC, please contact the SS4A Team at:

SS4A.FHWA@dot.gov