

## FFY 2017 Traffic Safety Project Proposal Overview & Instructions

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### What is Target Zero?

Washington is building traffic safety partnerships throughout the state to align priorities and leverage resources to improve traffic safety. The Target Zero Plan is the result of this work and represents Washington's strategic roadmap for eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries by the year 2030. The Target Zero Plan provides a comprehensive framework with specific priorities, goals, objectives, and strategies. Successful grant proposals are aligned with the Target Zero priorities and utilize its proven strategies or consist of innovative strategies with an accompanying evaluation plan. The 2013 Revised Target Zero Plan is available at <http://targetzero.com/>.

### What are Target Zero Priority Areas?

The Target Zero plan prioritizes traffic safety issues into three distinct levels. The three priority levels are determined based on the percentage of statewide traffic fatalities and serious injuries associated with each factor. Currently, priority one has three areas – impairment, speeding and run-off-the-road collisions. Priority two includes young drivers, unrestrained vehicle occupants, distracted drivers, intersection-related collisions, and traffic data systems. Priority three consists of issues or topic areas associated with fewer fatalities and serious injuries.

In addition to the statewide priority areas listed in Target Zero, a local county/municipality may have data that shows a shift in the percentages of traffic fatalities in that county for one or more focus areas. Projects that involve higher priority areas (either using statewide or county level data) will receive special consideration for funding.

### What are Proven or Evidence-Based Strategies?

Research and evaluation studies have validated the effectiveness of certain strategies for improving traffic safety. These strategies are referred to as "Proven." The Target Zero Plan includes dozens of these strategies. In fact, many of the strategies listed in Target Zero have been proven effective either through national research studies or sound project evaluation efforts. Those strategies that lack research evidence of effectiveness are listed in Target Zero as either "Recommended" or "Unknown." Project proposals that include "Proven" strategies will receive extra consideration for funding while those employing "Recommended," "Unknown," or other strategies will be considered based on project merit and planned outcomes.

If your proposal includes an innovative demonstration project for which no research exists to support its effectiveness, your project must contain a strong evaluation plan to assess the effectiveness of the project at its conclusion.

In addition to reviewing the traffic safety strategies contained in the Target Zero Plan, you may find it helpful to explore strategies contained in the following documents:

- *Countermeasures that Work*, a joint publication by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA) - <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/airbags/Countermeasures/index.htm>
- *American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Strategic Highway Safety Plan* <http://safety.transportation.org/guides.aspx>

## What is the Process Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) Uses to Award Grants?

Once the deadline for submission of proposals has closed, WTSC staff will begin evaluating and scoring the proposals. Scoring is based on the merits of the answers provided to the six primary proposal questions. Once WTSC staff has concluded its review and developed an overall recommendation for funding, a multi-disciplinary advisory committee will review the proposals, consider the WTSC staff proposal, and develop a recommendation for the WTSC Commissioners to consider. The WTSC Commissioners will make final funding decisions at the April, 2016 meeting.

WTSC will contact each applicant following the April Commission meeting to notify applicants of the status of their proposal. From May to August, WTSC staff will work with award recipients to execute an Interagency Agreement for the project period of performance – October 1, 2016 thru September 30, 2017.

## What is the Schedule for the Grant Process?

Event	Date
Notification of available grants is published	December 23, 2015
Applicant question/proposal preparation period	December 23, 2015 – February 12, 2016
Proposals due	February 12, 2016
WTSC evaluates proposals	February 16–March 18, 2016
Advisory Committee review	March 25–April 8, 2016
Commissioner review of funding proposal	April 21, 2016
Notify applicants	April 25 – May 6, 2016
Negotiate & finalize contracts	May 6 – August 31, 2016
Project start date	October 1, 2016
Project end date	September 30, 2017

## What is the Deadline for Submissions?

Regardless of the method you use, your proposal must be received by WTSC no later than 5 pm, PST, February 12, 2016. Late proposals will not be accepted.

## How Will I Know if WTSC has Received my Submission?

WTSC will send each applicant an email acknowledging receipt of the proposal by February 19, 2016. If you do not receive this notice, please contact WTSC at 360.727.9860 to confirm that your proposal was received.

## Who is Eligible to Receive WTSC Grants?

- Washington State agencies
- Federally recognized tribal governments
- Cities, counties, and their sub-agencies
- Non-profit organizations with existing IRS 501(c)(3) status
- Public schools (and private schools with non-profit status)

## What are the Minimum Qualifications to Receive a Grant?

Eligible agencies or organizations must be able to:

- Manage public funds efficiently and ethically.
- Collaborate with other public, private, and non-profit organizations.
- Effectively monitor and evaluate the outcomes of a project.
- Adhere to the *State and Federal Terms & Conditions* of the grant including creating and submitting quarterly project reports to the WTSC.

### **How are Funds Distributed?**

WTSC distributes funds on a “cost reimbursement” basis only. WTSC does not make payments in advance or in anticipation of goods or services.

### **How Much Funding Can I Request?**

Typically, grants range in amounts from \$5,000 to \$150,000.

### **What Types of Costs are Allowable Under this Grant?**

All costs under this grant must follow the Federal Office of Management and Budget guidelines and 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E -- Cost Principles.

<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=5ec3dd238c176d8117209c5dd5d88626&mc=true&node=pt2.1.200&rgn=div5#sp2.1.200.e>

Allowable project costs include:

- Cost to implement strategies designed to address traffic safety problems.
- Equipment and materials.
- Goods and services.
- Training and travel directly related to project goals.

### **What Types of Costs are Unallowable Under this Grant?**

All projects must follow appropriate state and federal funding regulations. Federal regulations prohibit the use of these funds for office furniture, gifts, entertainment, roadway construction, or roadway maintenance.

Roadway construction and maintenance includes the purchase of permanent road signs, traffic signals, Variable Message Signs, reflective paint, in-pavement flashing beacons, and motion-activated pedestrian signals. Funds may not be used for signal improvements including timing, retroreflective tape and back plates, and adaptive signal control. Funds may not be used for managing roadway access, implementing “road diet” countermeasures, new or modified turn lanes and signals, pavement markings, illumination, sight distance improvements, guardrail, rumble strips, or high friction pavement.

Federal regulations also prohibit supplanting – using these funds to replace routine or existing state and local expenditures or using these funds to conduct activities required by RCW, WAC, or other statute.

### **Are Indirect Costs Allowed?**

Yes. However, the WTSC strives to limit the use of funds to direct costs for traffic safety projects. In a few cases, the WTSC approves indirect costs necessary to realize the objectives of a promising traffic safety project. In order to request the inclusion of indirect costs on a grant award, the organization must provide the WTSC a copy of a cost allocation plan approved by the organization’s federal cognizant agency. These plans outline negotiated indirect cost rates as a percentage to be applied to specific project expenditures such as salary and benefits. Indirect cost rates may vary by project expenditure and must be applied appropriately to each expenditure for which indirect costs is requested. Rules governing the application of indirect costs are found in 2 CFR Part 200.414. <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=5ec3dd238c176d8117209c5dd5d88626&mc=true&node=pt2.1.200&rgn=div5#sp2.1.200.e>

### **Can Funds for Engineering Projects be Requested?**

No. These funds are intended to address behavioral traffic safety issues, not engineering solutions. For information on engineering grants, please contact the Washington State Department of Transportation at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/>.

### **Can These Funds Cover Salaries?**

Yes. However, project expenditures that include salaries should specifically outline how those expenditures further the goals of the project.

### **Can These Funds be Used to Purchase Police Equipment?**

Local law enforcement grant proposals for police equipment will not be considered in this opportunity. Each year, WTSC provides funds for traffic-related police equipment through grants to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). Therefore, local agencies should apply for equipment grants through this source. See <http://www.waspc.org> for additional information.

### **Can These Funds be Used to Fund Police Traffic Units?**

The start-up and on-going expenses of individual jurisdiction traffic units are cost prohibitive for the state's traffic safety grants. As a result, no individual traffic units will be considered for funding.

### **Can These Funds be Used for School Zones?**

The WTSC administers a state funding source intended to improve safety within school zones. The School Zone and Pupil Transportation Safety Account administers grants periodically based on availability of funding through the account. See <http://wtsc.wa.gov/grants/> for additional information.

### **Who Can I Contact for More Information?**

You may contact the grants coordinator by mail, telephone, or email. The grants coordinator for this project is:

Chris Madill  
PO Box 40944  
Olympia, WA 98504-0944  
Telephone: 360.725-9884  
E-mail: [cmadill@wtsc.wa.gov](mailto:cmadill@wtsc.wa.gov)

### **How Do I Submit My Proposal?**

You must submit an your proposal through the WTSC Enterprise Management System (WEMS). <https://wtsc.smartsimple.com>

### **Should I Submit Any Documents in Addition to My Project Proposal?**

The WTSC Enterprise Management System (WEMS) will guide you through the proposal process, including any required attachments.

### **Will My Proposal be Kept Confidential?**

All proposals received by WTSC are subject to the "Public Records Act," RCW 42.56. Any information in your proposal claimed as proprietary and exempt from disclosure must be clearly designated. The specific exemption must be clearly identified by the word "CONFIDENTIAL"

printed below the paragraph. The entire proposal may not be marked as exempt from disclosure.

**How Will I Know if I am Awarded a Grant?**

WTSC staff will contact you between April 25 and May 6, 2016, to inform you of the outcome of your proposal.

**What is the Process if I am Awarded a Grant?**

Once you have been notified of an impending grant award, the Interagency Agreement negotiation period begins. WTSC staff will provide you with a draft Interagency Agreement incorporating many of the elements of your original proposal. Required *State and Federal Terms and Conditions* will be included in the draft Interagency Agreement. Once agreement is reached on the statement of work, budget line items, and other negotiable terms, your authorizing official will sign two originals of the Interagency Agreement. Once these signed originals are received by WTSC, the WTSC Director or Deputy Director will sign both originals and return one of the originals for your records. If your organization utilizes electronic signatures, an electronic notification will be provided to your agency's designated contracting authority for signature through a verified and secured portal.

**What is the Period of Performance?**

The period of performance is October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017. Award recipients may only incur expenditures after the start of the Federal Fiscal Year – October 1 – and once an Interagency Agreement has been signed by your organization and the WTSC. Extensions of the period of performance are not permitted. WTSC will not reimburse any costs incurred on a project agreement prior to or after the period of performance.

**Can I Receive This Document in an Alternative Format?**

WTSC will make this document available in an alternate format upon request.