

FAQ - Safe Walk Route Improvement Project

This document will be updated each Friday with responses to questions received in person, by phone or by email. Specific In all cases, we will try to remove information that could identify a potential applicant.

2/15/18

- **Our school does not currently have a federal lunch program and therefore cannot produce a free and reduced lunch percentage. Are there any other options for producing a poverty index? Could we do a county average? Could we use an index from the last census? From your grant publication it appears that this a key factor in the competitive grant application. I would hope that there could be an alternative so that our application could be considered competitive.**

This is an important part of the application. However, it is not essential to provide the percentage in order to apply. Applicants who can respond will be able to earn up to 10 bonus points for their application if the percentage of free and reduced lunches is 50 percent or more of students in the school. If you do not have a free and reduced lunch program, you can use the average of your two closest neighboring school districts have roughly the same student racial/ethnicity percentages. If the two neighboring school districts also do not have free and reduced lunches, you can move to the two next-closest school districts.

- **What time is the webinar on March 6 going to be? Same as the other that there were technical difficulties with?**

March 6, 2018, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Distance participation only will be available through the following options:

WebEx Webinar

School Walk Route Improvement Project

When it is time for the meeting, click here to [join the meeting](#).

Meeting number (access code): 806 497 912

Meeting password: Welcome1

Join from a video system or application

Dial [806497912@watech.webex.com](tel:806497912@watech.webex.com)

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Telephone

Join by phone, (240) 454-0887 US Toll, or, Toll Free (855) 929-3239

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2/14/18

- **Are agencies allowed to use local agency forces to do the work to install and/or build or does it need to be bid out for contract services to do so?**

If I understand your question correctly, you are asking if you can use grant funds to pay salaries and benefits for – for instance - county staff to work on a project funded through this Request for Applications. The answer is a qualified yes. The qualification is that you need to make sure that use of these funds will not be considered supplanting by any of your other funding sources.

2/13/2018

- **The templates for the required documents have now been posted to <http://wtsc.wa.gov/grants>. The file name is School Walk Route Improvement Program – Required Document Templates.**
- **I was hoping you could clarify what projects would qualify under this new funding opportunity for schools. For example, our district recently experienced new construction (in the form of a strip mall) across the street from our school. In addition, some new parking was added and now parents are parking across the street and walking over to the school. Students are doing this as well. There are currently no sidewalks and there is no cross walk. In addition, this area has not been officially marked as a school zone. We approached the county about the need for a cross walk and possibly sidewalks and the school zone issue. They informed us that this would be a cost the school district would have to cover. Would this be a project that might fit under this new funding opportunity**

These funds cannot be used for construction of hardscape, e.g., concrete. The grant can pay for road striping that helps improve pick-up and drop-off zones. Your situation is neither of those. I can tell you are interested in finding a solution for this situation "yesterday" but within this current funding opportunity, your best fit may be to seek funding for some preliminary engineering and design work to determine what the possibilities are to address this situation. At least then, the school would have a good list of what is possible to do and what might have the best chances of positively addressing your situation.

2/8/2018

- **Can these funds be used to prepare an access to a trail that connects a school to a recreation and exercise center?**

This School Walk Routes Improvement project focuses on increasing the ability of students to get from their homes to school, preferably by walking or bicycling. These

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funds cannot be used for construction purposes and so, for instance grading and building a start for the walkway would not be eligible expenses.

2/7/2018 – There were technical difficulties with the webinar so it was not recorded. Here are the questions asked during the webinar.

- **Can the funds be used for construction of new facilities for passenger pick-up and drop-off?**

These funds cannot be used for construction. Funds could be used for striping areas used for passenger pick-up and drop-off. Funds could also be used for temporary traffic diversions to change or regulate traffic flow.

- **Can the funds be used for improvement of school bus stops?**

This School Walk Routes Improvement project focuses on increasing students' ability to get from their homes to school, preferably by walking or bicycling. So, bus stop or pupil transportation improvements cannot be supported with these funds.

- **With yellow flashing lights, there is a preference for units that have batteries charged by solar power. However, this is the Northwest and there are many days when there is not enough sun to charge the batteries. Can the yellow flashing lights be connected to a live electricity source if it can be shown that the solar-battery systems do not work?**

Yes. But any work associated with running power lines to the yellow flashing lights must be coordinated with the entity with jurisdiction over the roadway (city, county or tribal) or with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for lights located on a state highway.

- **Could a proposal be submitted to convert existing solar powered yellow flashing lights to direct connections?**

Yes. But there would need to be some persuasive information presented about why the change is necessary such as how often the flashing yellow lights do not work because the solar battery is not powered up. Additionally, any work associated with running power lines to the yellow flashing lights must be coordinated with the entity with jurisdiction over the roadway (city, county or tribal) or with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for lights located on a state highway.

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- **If a city wants to make improvements to road crossings that lead to the school but are outside of the designated school walk route, would a letter of support be needed from the school?**

The work would need to be happening in the designated school walk route. Assuming that the work is happening inside the designated school walk route are, it would not be necessary to get a letter of support from the school if the location of the work was some distance from the school. Nevertheless, it would be a good idea to have a letter anyway to demonstrate that communication was occurring and that there was cooperation to get the project done.

- **Should a list of multiple locations for yellow flashing lights be prioritized in terms of “highest risk” to “lowest risk”?**

It is not a requirement. However, such a listing would be very helpful if we were trying to determine how to give a partial award to an applicant.

2/5/2018

- **We wanted to know how to sign up for the webinar on 2/7/18 or 3/7/18.**

There is no advance registration necessary. A few minutes before the webinar log in using the information below. You will likely be prompted to download a temporary “client” program onto your computer if you do not already have WebEx on your computer. Generally, this is not a problem regardless of security systems. Still, it might be a good idea to check in with your IT folks to make sure they do not need to do something to enable your computer to link up to WebEx webinar. Otherwise, just follow the instructions in the application packet:

- **We have a sidewalk that ends short of our high school in our small rural town and I am wondering if the Safe Walk Route Improvement Project Grant opportunity could be a potential funding source, perhaps under "Other," for extending the sidewalk the rest of the distance to the school?**

One of our limitations with the funding is that we cannot do infrastructure construction. If there is some preliminary engineering or design work needed we could pay for that.