

Frequently Asked Questions

Two general updates (March 26, 2020):

- **The due date for these RFAs has been extended to April 24, 2020 from March 27, 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. You may still submit your application in advance of the original due date. If you do, you will be notified and asked if you would like to withdraw the application in order to work on it more prior to the new due date of April 24, 2020.**
- **There were broken links to the SurveyMonkey submission instrument in the original RFAs. The RFAs were updated with a working link on March 6, 2020 and are available [here](#), and then scroll to the middle of the page where it says School Walk Route Improvement projects.**

RFA 20-03 Walker and Bicyclist Safety Enhancement Projects (federal funding)

March 4, 2020

Q - Could these funds be used to fund a Safety Ambassadors program where youth leaders go to organizations and schools and increase awareness of laws and walker and bicyclist safety?

A – This kind of outreach and education could be supported with these funds.

RFA 20-04 School Safety Zone Account Projects

March 26, 2020

Q – Will you still be requiring letters of support from schools since they are all closed due to COVID-19?

A – Yes. It is essential that schools be aware of - and supportive of – any proposals for change or proposed improvement. Most school personnel are continuing to telework, meaning that you should be able to contact them through their normal school phone number or email address.

Please note that schools – like most of us – are really in an unfamiliar position of needing to provide for continuing services like nutrition and planning and assigning of lessons to students, all while working remotely. So a request for this kind of letter may be seen as a lower priority. Make the request for a letter, and if you don't hear something back after two or three days, then politely make the request again.

We are, however, in truly unusual circumstances. So, there could be situations where you won't have a school letter of support to submit even after making a few polite attempts to get one. In that case, please attach copies of your communication with the school requesting a letter of support in place of the letter itself. If your application is selected for funding, you will need to produce an actual letter of support from the school before a contract will be developed to support your project.

March 4, 2020

Q – Could a survey of how best to educate a community about walker and bicyclist safety issues be funded through these funds?

A – This kind of outreach and education could be supported with these funds. Also, development of a curriculum or campaign based on those survey results could be funded.

Q – Could a tribe apply for a program or improvement like flashing yellow beacons if the focus school was not on tribal lands?

A – This could be supported with these funds, provided there was a logical link between the tribe applying and the project. Examples would be: 1) the focus school is an a school district adjacent to a tribal reservation and has a large enrollment of American Indian Alaska Native students, or, perhaps drivers pass through a section of non-tribal land before they get to a school zone near a school located on tribal lands.

February 26, 2020

Q - The School Safety Zone Account RFA mentioned salaries as a potential eligible expense. Can this be put towards paid position for crossing guard? If not, is one of the other grants more suitable?

A - *There is no specific funding category for adult crossing guards for the state-funded School Safety Zone Account Projects RFA and this would not be an eligible expense for the federally funded Walker and Bicyclist Safety Enhancement Projects RFA.*

The reference to crossing guards in the state funded RFA is for student crossing guard teams that are led by an adult advisor. These are generally for elementary schools, but sometimes are operated by middle schools.

If you were to apply for these funds, you would apply for state funds under the "Other" category and would need to provide specific information about why adult crossing guards were needed.

2/12/2020

Q - In reviewing the RFAs, if we want speed enforcement cameras, it appears that would fall under the School Safety Zone Account Projects RFA. There is a 25% cash match requirement. We currently have two flashing School Zone signs on either side of the school where I could see these cameras going. To get an idea of what we would need to cover, do you have a rough range of costs for installing two speed cameras?

A - *The answer to your question varies depending on the equipment purchased and whether your local community or school owns the cameras or whether an outside vendor owns and operates the cameras.*

In Washington State, there are currently 18 cities using automated photo enforcement in school zones. All of them have opted for an outside vendor to install and operate the cameras. This means that the vendor gets paid a fee from revenues generated from citations. Generally, under this model, there is little upfront cost, and the vendor maintains and calibrates the cameras.

If you were to purchase and install cameras, the cost, according to the [Centers for Disease Control](#), would be about \$50,000 per camera for equipment and installation. So, from this RFA, 1.5 cameras could be purchased and installed but local sources would be responsible for the other 50 percent of the costs for the second camera.

Seattle School District has one of the most successful automated photo enforcement programs in the country. In the six years that there has been photo enforcement in 14 school zones, the average speed through the school zones has consistently declined as has the number of vehicle crashes. What's more, there has been a significant reduction in the number of citations from the photo enforcement cameras. So, being in the Seattle School District is a real advantage for you (I've attached their 2018 annual report on the automated photo enforcement program). I would encourage you to contact Seattle's automated photo enforcement program. Chris Steel is listed as the program manager, chris.steel@seattle.gov, (206) 733-9809.

2/6/2020

Q - I was forwarded the below information but can't seem to find anything additional on the WTSC website. Would it be possible for you to forward me a link or other pertinent info regarding these grants?

A - Both RFAs are available at <https://wtsc.wa.gov/grants/school-zone-grants/>. Scroll to the middle of the page where it says School Walk Route Improvement Project Grants.