



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Safe Routes to School High School Grant

The following questions and responses are intended to help School Team Applicants and Technical Assistance Vendors submit proposals to the Spare the Air Youth Safe Routes to School High School Grant. Please email any further questions to info@sparetheairyouth.org.

General

Why is Spare the Air Youth providing this grant program for high school student activities?

Spare the Air Youth has been supporting programs for school aged youth since its inception in 2011. We have heard from practitioners that it is often hardest to implement Safe Routes to School curriculum and encouragement programs in high schools where students are busy and seeking independent leadership opportunities. Therefore, Spare the Air Youth is providing technical assistance to high school groups to implement their own ideas for projects and activities that support the program's mission.

Will the Safe Routes to School High School Grant Program continue in following years?

The program is funded for the next four school years. For the 2018-19 school year, \$50,000 of funding will be awarded to provide technical assistance for School Teams. For the following three school years (2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22), we expect that \$100,000 will be available to provide technical assistance for School Teams. In future years, we intend to open the grant in March, to better align with the school year.

How is Spare the Air Youth working with and encouraging School Teams to apply?

One of the mission of Spare the Air Youth is to reach high schools that have not been involved with Safe Routes to Schools programming in the past. Eco2School, one of the managing organizations, will work with schools and organizations to encourage students from schools cross the Bay Area to apply. STAY is also interested in in funding new and innovative SRTS projects. Technical Assistance Vendors and supporting organizations and agencies are encouraged to reach out directly to high school students in schools that they work with to encourage them to apply.

School Team Applicants

Can organizations apply for the grant if they are not a high school student?

Strong applications are those that include the voice and involvement of high school students in addition to adult mentors. Adult leaders may write and submit an application on behalf of the School Team. We ask if adult submit an application, that they are already working with a group of students who are interested in implementing the activities outlined in the grant.

Will School Teams receive funding directly to implement proposed activities?

No, funding goes to the matched vendor, who will provide technical assistance to the School Teams. Technical assistance includes vendor assistance and support in holding meetings, coordinating activities, and collecting data. Funding can also be used by the vendor to print materials and purchase equipment and small incentives that are part of the proposed activities.

How should a student group apply if student members are from different schools or school districts?

Spare the Air Youth encourages students to submit separate applications for every school at which proposed activities would occur. However, if students across schools were applying to be part of a student coalition or a youth advisory board, they would only need to submit one application. If you are unsure of how to apply, don't hesitate to e-mail info@sparetheairyouth.org.

Will preference be shown to applications with activities that slightly benefit a large number of students or those which strongly benefit a smaller group of students?

Based on the "potential reach" selection criteria, Spare the Air Youth will give more points to activities that reach more people. However, we understand that projects targeting a small number of people can potentially have a large impact. The greater impact of the proposed activities will be graded through the "potential for mode shift" selection criteria.

Technical Assistance Vendors

Do vendors have to apply each year to be considered by the High School Grant Program?

No, once a vendor has been approved for the vendor list, the organization or agency will remain on the list for the following years of the program.

What are the selection criteria for vendors being accepted?

Spare the Air Youth is developing a list of pre-approved vendors who can provide technical assistance for the activities allowed through the High School Grant. There are no outlined "selection criteria" and vendors will be added based on whether they can provide technical assistance and meet the minimum insurance requirements. School Teams may indicate a preferred vendor in their application, in which case Spare the Air Youth will honor the request if the vendor is on the approved list.

What is the process for vendors receiving payment?

Vendors will receive payment through a reimbursement process. Vendors will submit monthly invoices to Alta Planning + Design, the company with which they will be under contract. Then the invoice is approved by MTC. Once Alta receives payment, vendors will be paid within 30 days of Alta receiving payment.