

Transportation Safety Office

Grant Eligibility and Application Guidelines

Fiscal Year 2026–2027

Overview

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Transportation Safety Office (TSO) plans and implements Oregon's Highway Safety Plan and related safety programs. Our main responsibility is to improve the safety of all roadway users, and all modes of travel in Oregon through education and outreach. TSO works with a broad range of partners at the state and local levels, as well as special interest groups for grant project selection; and by providing coordination and technical assistance to help meet safety improvement goals. The overall goal is to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries on Oregon's roadways.

Eligible Organizations

- State agencies
- Local governments
- Tribal Nations
- Colleges and universities
- Non-profit organizations

Eligible Program Areas

- **Community Traffic Safety:** Implements local strategies and partnerships to reduce crashes and improve roadway safety through education, enforcement, and engineering initiatives.
- **Distracted Driving:** Promotes awareness and enforcement programs to prevent crashes caused by driver inattention and mobile device use.
- **Driver and Officer Safety Education:** Provides training and resources to enhance safety for law enforcement officers and drivers during traffic stops and roadside interactions.
- **Driver Education and Behavior:** Supports programs that improve driver knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors to reduce risky driving and promote compliance with traffic laws.
- **Emergency Medical Services:** Strengthens pre-hospital care and response systems to improve survival rates and outcomes for crash victims.
- **Impaired Driving (Drugs and/or Alcohol):** Implements enforcement, education, and treatment strategies to prevent crashes caused by alcohol- and drug-impaired driving.
- **Judicial Outreach:** Engages judges and court personnel to promote effective adjudication and sentencing practices for traffic safety violations.
- **Occupant Protection (Adult and Child Passenger Safety):** Encourages seat belt and child restraint use through education, enforcement, and community outreach.
- **Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety:** Develops programs to protect vulnerable road users through education, infrastructure improvements, and enforcement.
- **Speed Management:** Promotes enforcement and public awareness campaigns to reduce speeding-related crashes and fatalities.

- **Traffic Enforcement Services (formerly Police Traffic Services):** Enhances law enforcement capabilities to deter dangerous driving behaviors and improve compliance with traffic laws.
- **Traffic Records:** Improves data collection, analysis, and sharing systems to support evidence-based traffic safety decisions and program evaluation.

Goals

- Reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries resulting from crashes
- Increase statewide seat belt compliance and conduct child passenger safety events annually
- Reduce alcohol and drug impaired driving crashes through enforcement campaigns, law enforcement and prosecution training, and public awareness outreach
- Safety for pedestrian and bicyclist users of Oregon's transportation system
- Reduce distracted driving crashes through driver education campaigns and law enforcement efforts
- Provide training to officers and EMS personnel to improve post-crash care
- Improve crash data reporting timeliness and implement new data integration systems
- Reduce speed-related crashes through speed enforcement campaigns, especially in high-risk areas

Grant Period

Applications are for the 2027 federal fiscal year, with funding to be used during:

October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027

Funding

- **Grant Amount:** Flexible based on project scope and available funds.
**Funds are dispersed on a reimbursement basis rather than as an up-front award. Reimbursement requests, with receipts attached, must be submitted at least quarterly, due within 35 days of the end of each quarter. Requests received after the deadline will not be processed, reimbursements may take up to 45 days to be reimbursed.*
- **Match Requirements:** Grantees are required to contribute 20% of the total project cost in matching funds, either cash match or in-kind.

Examples of In-kind Match:

Personnel Time: Staff can dedicate hours to project coordination, valued at their standard hourly rates.

Volunteer Support: Community volunteers can assist with grant projects, and hours valued at the current Independent Sector volunteer rate.

Facility Use: Meeting space for training sessions valued at the fair market rental rate.

- Projects that include **local expenditures**—such as grants awarded directly to local political subdivisions or projects conducted by non-profits at the request of local political subdivisions—may receive preference.

**Local expenditures are costs incurred by local governments or projects carried out by non-profits at their request, these contributions show community commitment to traffic safety.*

Reporting Requirements

All grant management and tracking are completed through TSO's online grant management system (SGMS)

- **Quarterly Progress Reports** detailing current grant progress. In order to receive payment on reimbursement requests, quarterly reports must be filed.
- **Final Report** summarizing completed activities and outcomes, completed at the end of the grant period.
- **Reimbursement Requests** with receipts attached, due within 35 days of the end of each quarter.

Additional Requirements

- Organizations must meet state and federal regulations
- All projects must align with the mission and goals of the TSO
- Grantees must comply with all applicable state and federal laws

Application Process

1. **Review Eligibility:** Confirm your organization and proposed program meet the eligibility criteria laid out in these guidelines. *Also see *Code of Federal Regulations, part 1300 eCFR :: 23 CFR Part 1300 -- Uniform Procedures for State Highway Safety Grant Programs*
2. **Complete and Submit Application Form:** Fill out the official TSO grant application form accurately and completely – See https://odot.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp
3. **Deadline:** All applications must be submitted by March 13, 2026. Late submissions will not be considered.
4. **Confirmation:** You will receive an email confirmation upon successful submission
5. **Contact for Assistance:** For questions or technical support, contact the Transportation Safety Office at sgms.support@odot.oregon.gov

Evaluation Criteria

- **Project Alignment:** How well the proposed project aligns with TSO goals and program areas
- **Impact:** Expected outcomes and measurable benefits to roadway safety and the specific need identified
- **Budget Justification:** Clarity and reasonableness of the proposed budget and use of funds
- **Feasibility:** Ability to deliver within timeline and budget

Contact Information

Transportation Safety Office
tsograntapp@odot.oregon.gov
(503) 986-3883

TSO 2027 Grant Applicant FAQs

1. Who is eligible to apply for these grants?

Eligible applicants include state agencies, local governments, Tribal Nations, colleges and universities, and non-profit organizations.

2. What types of projects can be funded?

Projects must focus on behavioral, educational, and enforcement initiatives that improve transportation safety. Examples include: Distracted Driving Awareness and Enforcement; Driver Education and Behavior Programs; Impaired Driving Prevention (Alcohol and/or Drugs); Occupant Protection; Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education; Motorcycle Safety Training and Outreach; Judicial and Law Enforcement Safety Education.

3. Are these grants affected by ODOT's state budget issues?

No. These funds are federally allocated and are not impacted by ODOT's state budget constraints.

4. What are the key dates for the solicitation?

Opening Date: February 6, 2026; Application Deadline: March 13, 2026. Applications must be submitted through ODOT's online grant management system:

<https://odot.smartsimple.com>. Late submissions will not be considered.

5. Is there a match requirement?

Yes. Grantees must contribute 20% of the total project cost in matching funds, which can be cash or in-kind contributions (e.g., personnel time, volunteer support, facility use).

6. How are funds distributed?

Funds are provided on a reimbursement basis. Reimbursement requests must include receipts and be submitted quarterly within 35 days of the end of each quarter.

7. Where can I find more information or get help?

Review the attached TSO Grant Eligibility and Application Guidelines or contact the Transportation Safety Office at: Email: tsograntapp@odot.oregon.gov | Phone: (503) 986-3883.