

2026 Community Traffic Safety Grants Information Sheet

Submission Deadline: January 30, 2026

Project Background and Overview

The Colorado Department of Public Health (CDPHE) and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) invite applications for the 2026 Community Traffic Safety Mini-grant Initiative. This funding opportunity aims to support communities to implement data-informed, evidence-based approaches to address traffic safety issues for populations impacted by serious injury and fatal crashes.

Funding Priorities

Priority will be given to first-time grantees and projects that focus on reducing serious injury and fatal crashes for the following populations:

- Young people/young drivers;
- Older people/older drivers; and
- Non-motorists, including pedestrians and bicyclists.

Additionally, **up to 1 project** focused on child passenger safety may be selected in this funding cycle, which must incorporate the following elements:

- Training new [certified Child Passenger Safety Technician\(s\)](#);
- Conducting car seat checks using the [National Digital Check Form](#) (NDCF); and
- Providing education to the public about car seat/booster safety.

Funding Criteria

- Funding model: The Community Traffic Safety Mini-Grant is available through a reimbursement model, meaning project costs are reimbursed to grantees after completing and invoicing for the project. There is no required match.
- Eligibility: Public and non-profit entities representing a local community or Colorado region are eligible to apply.

- **Application Requirement:** The proposal must clearly use data to show a demonstrated community need. The proposal must also define how the applicant will develop and implement outreach, education, and/or programming promoting traffic safety strategies benefitting populations impacted by serious injury and fatal crashes.
- **Project Deadline:** All project activities, including expenses, must be completed by September 30, 2026.

Budget Requirements

- **Available Funds:** There is \$30,000 total available funding. Applicants are able to request a minimum of \$5,000 and maximum of \$10,000 for project funding.
- All costs must be traffic safety related. The following materials costs are unallowable: food and candy; all clothing except reusable safety vests; swag items (ex. pens, keychains, stickers); giveaways or raffles; storage sheds; and furniture.
- Grantees have the right to claim an indirect rate but are not required to do so.
- If selected for funding, your organization will be required to complete a brief financial risk assessment (if one is not already on file with CDPHE).
- For child passenger safety applications:
 - Car seat purchases are limited to \$2,500.
 - Funding can be used to pay for Child Passenger Safety Technician certification training registration fee (\$95) and travel costs as well as supplies that will facilitate using the national digital check form (ex. tablet).

Project Examples

Examples of applicable outreach, education, and/or programming strategies include but are not limited to:

- Young People/Drivers - Youth-led traffic safety campaign (see a [Colorado example](#)); peer-to-peer education programs; pilot program to increase access to driver's education; graduated driver's license education for drivers and parents.
- Older People/Drivers - Outreach and education events/programs to support driving fitness such as [CarFit assessments](#) or [Yellow Dot programs](#).
- Pedestrians, Bicyclist, and Non-motorists - Outreach and education events/programs around Walk and Bike to School Day (May) or Bike to Work Day (June); bicycle rodeos and providing education around helmet use/bicycle safety; educational media

campaign to promote walking/biking safety; Bicycle-friendly driver training; walk/bike/mobility audits paired with education and outreach; pedestrian safety outreach to schools and communities; e-bike and scooter education.

Selection Criteria

Projects will be evaluated using the selection criteria below. The most successful projects will include a project idea that addresses a community need, demonstrates local support, focuses on priority populations, and is ready to be implemented.

Category	Description	Scoring (30)
Relevance	The project is relevant to the purpose of this funding.	1 - low 5 - high
Focus on priority populations	The project focuses on reducing serious injury and fatal crashes. Higher scoring will be given to projects that focus on young people/young drivers; older people/older drivers; and non-motorists, including pedestrians and bicyclists.	1 - low 5 - high
Community needs or barriers	The project clearly addresses a community traffic safety need or challenge. Higher scoring will be given to applications supported with relevant data, plans, or policies (ex. local transportation plan, Vision Zero or Safe Routes to School policy, Safety Action Plan, etc.).	1 - low 5 - high
Evidence-based strategies	The project relies on evidence-based project strategies to address a community traffic safety need or challenge.	1 - low 5 - high
Readiness to implement	The application demonstrates an ability to complete the project, with a feasible timeline, relevant partners, and realistic project details.	1 - low 5 - high
Evaluation plan	The application outlines an appropriate evaluation plan that incorporates qualitative and quantitative measures.	1 - low 5 - high

How to Apply

An [electronic application](#) is available through Google Forms. The application includes an additional section for child passenger safety projects. PDFs of both [application versions](#) exist for your reference. If you have difficulty accessing Google Forms, please contact Molloy Sheehan, molloy.sheehan@state.co.us to identify an alternative submission process.

In addition to the electronic application, applicants must submit a project budget via email to Molloy Sheehan, molloy.sheehan@state.co.us. Applicants may use the [budget template](#) or create their own. The budget form must explain all expenses included. Applicants are responsible for ensuring the calculations in the budget are accurate.

All application materials must be submitted electronically via the [Google Form application](#) no later than 11:59 p.m. on January 30, 2026.

Application Development Resources

Several application questions suggest the inclusion of supporting data or evidence-based strategies. If you need help identifying data or strategies, please review the list of [application development resources](#) we developed for this funding opportunity (pages 5-6), and/or contact Molloy Sheehan, molloy.sheehan@state.co.us to discuss specific questions.

Funding Timeline

- January 30, 2026 - Application deadline
- Week of February 23, 2026 - Applicants will be notified of funding decisions
- September 30, 2026 - Project activities must be completed.
- October 15, 2026 - Project invoice materials must be submitted to CDPHE.
- October 31, 2026 - Project evaluation must be completed.

Questions and inquiries

Please contact Molloy Sheehan, molloy.sheehan@state.co.us with any questions related to the 2026 Community Traffic Safety mini grant opportunity.

Application Development Resources

The table below outlines data sources that could be useful in developing the application narrative. The table is sorted into two categories: traffic crash and injury data, and health and behavior data. The left side of the table lists the name of the data source with a hyperlink and indicates the scope (ex. all counties vs. select counties). Please contact Molloy Sheehan, molloy.sheehan@state.co.us to discuss specific questions about these data sources.

Traffic Crash and Injury Data	Description
All Counties - Motor Vehicle Problem ID Dashboard	Analysis of traffic crash report form data, including injury and crash counts, toxicology results, and contributing behavioral factors. Data by county.
All Counties - Colorado Crash Data Dashboard	Traffic crash report form data, including counts, causes, types, and locations. Data by county.
All Counties - Injury Dashboard	Fatality, emergency department visits, and hospitalization data. Data by county.
All Counties - CDOT Crash Data Dashboard	Traffic crash report form data. Data by county.
All Counties - Colorado Child Fatality Prevention System Data Dashboard	Dashboard for child fatalities, including a section on Motor vehicle and other transportation deaths in Colorado. Data by county.
Select Counties - Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Traffic Crashes Map	Map locating traffic crashes (2019-2023) in El Paso, Park, and Teller County. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource background materials
Select Counties - Denver Regional Council of Governments Crash Data Dashboard	Map locating traffic crashes (2020-2024) in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Clear Creek, Douglas, Gilpin, and Jefferson County.
Health and Behavior Data	
All Counties - VISION: Visual Information System for Identifying Opportunities and Needs	Chronic disease burden data, including alcohol and marijuana use, mental health, and health factors for older adults. Data by County. Use the “Map” tab or search bar on the “Table” tab to find a specific county, year, or demographic group.
All Health Regions - Healthy Kids Colorado Survey Dashboard	Self-reported high school and middle school behavior survey. High school data by health statistics regions. Middle school data is statewide due to limited survey

	collection years.
All Counties, down to Census block - Colorado EnviroScreen	<p>Mapping tool that includes 35 indicators to calculate a score of combined environmental stressors. Data by Census block.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the “Getting Started” section to learn how to use the tool.
All Counties - Colorado Shared Risk & Protective Factors	Dashboard to visualize protective factors for violence and injury prevention related to behavioral health, economic stability and support, connectedness, and social norms. Data by county.