

# Learn it. Do it. Live it!

## QUICKSTART MINI-GRANTS



Have a small activity or program in mind? QuickStart Mini-grants offer a way to jumpstart your local Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program with a \$1,000 grant. These popular grants are offered throughout the school year.

### QuickStart Mini-grants

#### *How can the Funds be Used?*

QuickStart Mini-grants can be used to support activities to encourage and enable safe walking and bicycling to school for children grades K-8, including:

#### ✓ Ongoing Activities:

- Regular walk and bike to school days, such as weekly Walk on Wednesdays
- Walking and bicycling incentive programs
- Walking school buses and bicycle trains
- Student safety patrols

#### ✓ Education

- Pedestrian and bicycle safety education
- Bicycle rodeos
- Cross-curricular activities highlighting the benefits of walking and biking, such as calculating a school's carbon footprint
- Driver speed reduction or distracted driving prevention campaigns

#### ✓ National and Statewide Events

- International Walk to School Day
- National Bike to School Day
- Crossing Guard Appreciation Day
- Student Travel Tally Week
- Earth Day

#### ✓ Small Infrastructure Improvements Paired with Encouragement Activities

- Crosswalk Improvements
- New Bicycle Racks



*Park View Elementary School in Portsmouth used a QuickStart Mini-grant to purchase safety equipment.*

#### *Who Can Apply?*

QuickStart Mini-grants are open to various education, civic, and community groups, including:

- Adult-supervised elementary or middle school groups/clubs
- Adult-supervised high school groups/clubs
- Faculty, staff, or parent volunteers
- Local governments
- Tribal governments
- Community-based or private non-profit organizations

Applicants can receive one QuickStart Mini-grant per grant cycle. There are two grant cycles per year: the fall grant cycle (August through October) and the spring grant cycle (February through April). Preference will be given to schools that have not benefited from a QuickStart Mini-grant in the previous two grant cycles.



## Application and Award Process

The online QuickStart Application process is straightforward and convenient. The application asks for a description of the project or activity and how the funding request will benefit kids walking and biking to school. Applications are reviewed throughout the year according to a schedule posted on the Virginia SRTS program website.



Apply for a QuickStart Mini-grant using this convenient and accessible online form, available at: [www.surveymogz.com/s3/1003520/QuickStart-Mini-grant-Application-Form](http://www.surveymogz.com/s3/1003520/QuickStart-Mini-grant-Application-Form)

## Application Tips

- Answer all questions thoroughly and completely.
- Explain how the Mini-grant activities will encourage walking and bicycling to school or make walking and bicycling to school safer.
- Include letters of support from the principals of all school beneficiaries or from a school division administrator is also acceptable, if the proposed activities will benefit more than three schools.

## Award and Project Completion

After approval, grantees receive an initial check for \$500. A second check for up to \$500 is provided upon completion of the activities and a short final report. The second check is a reimbursement check for documented expenses above \$500.

- Complete the activities within 90 days of grant award. Consider delaying application for activities beyond this timeframe, or submit an application for alternative activities that can be completed sooner.
- Take photos. The final report requires three high-resolution photos of the mini-grant activities.

## Buzz Aldrin Elementary School

A QuickStart Mini-grant helped fund Bike to School Day at Buzz Aldrin Elementary School in Reston. The school used the grant to buy toe tokens and blinky reflector lights with the "Aldrin Rides" logo, which were handed out to participants on the day of the event.



*"The kids really look forward to this event in the Spring and International Walk to School Day in the fall, each year. Kids are enthusiastic about riding their bikes or walking, which in turn enhances their physical activity. To me, the children's enthusiasm and their excitement to get moving are indicators of the success of the event."*

*- Jennifer Johns, Buzz Aldrin Elementary School PTA Wellness Chair*

## Additional Resources

For more information, including a link to the application form, upcoming application due dates, and additional activity ideas, go to [www.virginiadot.org/saferoutes/](http://www.virginiadot.org/saferoutes/) and navigate to the QuickStart Mini-grant page.

Still have questions? Contact our Local Technical Assistance Coordinators at 1-855-601-7787 or email us at [info@VirginiaSRTS.org](mailto:info@VirginiaSRTS.org).

