

Advocacy Advance Model Grants

Purpose – Model grants provide multi-year support to state and local advocacy organizations with efforts to significantly increase federal investment at state, regional, and/or local levels for biking and walking infrastructure and programs. These multi-year grants will provide key resources to a few selected organizations that show promise to access funding, serve as a replicable model for other locations, and significantly increase the biking and walking mode share.

Guidelines – An organization may apply for a Model Grant if it:

1. Is a member organization of the Alliance for Biking & Walking and the League of American Bicyclists
2. Is incorporated as, or fiscally sponsored, by a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organization
3. Has a clear plan and measurable way to leverage existing and/or open new federal funding currently unused or under-spent on biking and walking from HSIP, 402, CMAQ, TE, Equity Bonus, non-TE STP or other transportation funding
4. Identifies a demonstrated opportunity to work with the municipal/regional government and/or state transportation agencies to access federal funds
5. Will serve as a replicable model, sharing challenges faced along the way and the transferrable lessons learned to other advocacy organizations during and after the grant
6. Is able to work closely with Advocacy Advance staff during project implementation and willing to help host and facilitate related trainings and presentations on this work

Additional criteria – In addition, we recommend but don't require that the proposed project:

7. Builds the capacity of your organization with dedicated staffing
8. Enlists the involvement of other stakeholders and/or policy makers
9. Builds the organization's infrastructure and compliments current programs
10. Builds the organization's political power
11. Will leverage positive media and promotion of the organization, biking and walking

Grant Amount – Advocacy Advance Model Grants are multi-year grants (contingent upon goals being met and continued opportunities) for up to three years ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000 per year.

Deadlines – The inquiry proposal deadline is April 25th, 2011. Organizations invited to submit a final proposal will be notified by May 18th and final proposals will be due June 20th.

Examples:

City, regional or state advocacy organization works with a state agency or MPO to dramatically increase funds allocated and invested in bike and pedestrian infrastructure through commitment or investment in HSIP, 402, CMAQ, STP and/or other federally obligated funding program.

Organization dedicates a staff person to ensure that federal funding opportunities are thoroughly explored and maximized at the state or MPO level.

Campaign to dramatically increase funding in one category by engaging in the process in which those funding decision are made (i.e. creating separate CMAQ applications for bicycle projects and parking; state DOT setting aside 10% of HSIP for bike and ped projects).

Proposal – Complete and submit the initial inquiry form. A full proposal will be required from the final candidates.

Reporting and Training – Model Grant recipients will be required to submit progress reports quarterly. Your organization will also be asked to host workshops or trainings as negotiated with the Advocacy Advance staff to share your strategies and successes with other bicycle and pedestrian advocates.

Contact – For more information about the Advocacy Advance Grant programs, visit our website (www.AdvocacyAdvance.org) or contact Brigid O'Keane at Brigid@PeoplePoweredMovement.org or 202-621-5442.