

Spare the Air Youth High School Grant Program



Activity Eligibility

Eligible projects will be school-based, non-infrastructure projects that promote youth leadership, while working toward the larger goals of Spare the Air Youth. The below example projects provide a range of eligible activities. Contact info@sparetheairyouth.org with questions about activity eligibility.

Examples of eligible activities include student-led:

- Youth advisory boards
- Single-day encouragement events such as International Walk to School Day, Bike to School Day, Cocoa for Carpools.
- Competitions and multi-week challenges, such as the Golden Sneaker Award or Green Spirit Week
- Walking school buses and bike trains
- Bicycle field trips
- Educational campaigns
- Educational curriculum
- Bicycle repair class/ bike shop
- School safety assessment/ walk audit
- Tactical urbanism

Ineligible Activities

This grant is provided by CMAQ funds, and must fit within CMAQ funding requirements. There are some limitations using CMAQ funds to support activities, including:

- **Incentives are not CMAQ eligible.** While incentives are allowed expenses under the federal SRTS program, they are not eligible under the CMAQ program. Therefore, this funding may not be used to buy incentive items or provide food, trophies, or other items used to reward positive behavior/positive outcomes under the program.
- **Outreach and Marketing materials are CMAQ eligible.** It is important to distinguish “incentives” from outreach and marketing materials that provide an educational/encouragement message. The latter, if used for outreach and marketing purposes and not as a reward or compensatory item, are eligible provided they have a message and are of minimal value. This includes items such as stickers, pencils, pedometers, wristbands, caps, sun visors, reflectors, water bottles and similar items.
- **Safety improvements such as crossing guards and mobile radar trailers are not eligible,** as they specifically address safety but do not directly lead to changes in travel behavior that result

in greenhouse gas emission reduction. Safety improvements such as signage, warning lights, etc. oriented to motorists are also ineligible.

Past High School Grant Funded Projects

For the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years, The Spare the Air Youth high school program funded eight \$10,000 mini grants to organizations providing high school programming in High Schools across the region. The purpose of the High School Grant Program is to deepen Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and other shared transportation encouragement and education efforts in high schools. Starting in the 2020-21 School Year, STAY is reorganizing the program to allow for larger funding amounts and a 2-3 year grant cycle. This resource documents the activities funded in the first two years of the program, and the types of activities the STAY program is looking to support.

Organization	School	Project
2018-19 School Year		
Earth Team	JFK High School; Richmond High School	Something is in the Air
Marin County Bicycle Coalition	San Marin High	Share the Road Education and Encouragement Campaign
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition	Mission High School	Mission Youth Bike Club
TransForm	Alameda Co. High Schools	Safe Routes to School Youth Champions
Peninsula Family YMCA	Redwood High School	Redwood High School Bike Shed Program
2019-20 School Year		
Transform	Alameda Co. High Schools	McClymonds HS "Walk and Roll TV"
Peninsula Family YMCA	Redwood High School	Redwood High School Bike Shed Program
Earth Team	JFK High School; LPS High School	Something is in the Air

Applicant: Earth Team

Funded Project: Something is in the Air

Funding Amount: \$10,000 each year

Earth Team has worked each year with around 30 students in Contra Costa and Alameda County as part of their Something is in the Air (SITA) program to lead a student-based inquiry of the connections between transportation, air quality, and human health. As a student-led project, SITA's goal is to reduce VMT's emissions by changing community attitudes and targeting behaviors in the use of alternative transportation in daily school commutes. The activities include STEM skills, data collection, mapping, and campus-wide outreach campaigns as well as multiple activities fostering peer-to-peer engagement to reach out to up to 2,500 students, their families and over 20 teachers, promoting the benefits of alternative transportation.

Applicant: TransForm

Funded Project: Safe Routes to School Youth Champions; McClymonds HS "Walk and Roll TV"

Funding Amount: \$10,000 each year

The Youth Champion Program in Alameda County brings together high school students from diverse communities to promote using active and shared transportation modes. Youth Champions work with local elementary and middle schools to help them coordinate SRTS events and campaigns. The Youth Champions were able to reach 12,000 students, families and communities with their education and outreach programs. In the 2019-20 school year, Youth Champions at McClymonds High School produced videos as part of the "Walk and Roll TV" program to share with other students and promote mode shift activities.

Applicant: Peninsula Family YMCA

Funded Project: Redwood High School Bike Shed Program

Funding Amount: \$10,000 each year

YBike, a program of the Peninsula Family YMCA facilitates a bike mechanic shed program at Redwood High School in San Mateo County. YBike educators supported around 25 students learn how to build and maintain their own bikes. Many of the student decide to take on leadership roles, and have helped implement school wide campaigns included Walk and Roll to School Day and a Bike Awareness Day at their school. They have had a 25% participation rate on walk and roll to school day with 40 students participating. Students participating in the Bike Shed program are not just building bikes, but also gaining confidence through collaboration and communication skills.

Applicant: Marin County Bicycle Coalition

Funded Project: Share the Road Education and Encouragement Campaign

Funding Amount: \$10,000

In the 2018-19 school year, a girl scout troop partnered with a Health Class at San Marin High School to implement a Share the Road curriculum. As part of the curriculum, students in the course developed short videos that were shown to the entire student population, as well as the local middle school. Share the Road classroom presentations were delivered to seven classes (175 students) at San Marin High School.

Applicant: San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

Funded Project: Mission Youth Bike Club

Funding Amount: \$10,000

The San Francisco Bicycle Coalition was funded to support the Mission Youth Bike Club, an afterschool program that teaches bike mechanics, leads bike rides, and connects students around active transportation at San Francisco's Mission High School. Students have the opportunity to learn basic mechanic skills such as changing a flat and cleaning a chain, to develop hands on learning and peer-to-peer leadership opportunities. The leadership of the Mission Bike Club helps the entire school population participate in Walk & Roll to School Day and Bike and Roll to School week.