

Request for Proposals



SAFE STATES
*Strengthening the practice of
injury and violence prevention*

INNOVATIVE AND UPSTREAM APPROACHES FOR INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Up to four (4) seed grant awards will be awarded to implement innovative injury and violence prevention (IVP) approaches, including fostering cross-sector partnerships, addressing shared risk and protective factors, and upstream approaches.

Deadline to respond: October 15, 2025, 5:00 pm EST

ABOUT THE SAFE STATES ALLIANCE

The Safe States Alliance (Safe States) is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and professional association whose mission is to strengthen the practice of injury and violence prevention (IVP). Safe States is supported primarily through government grants, membership dues, conference registration fees, and other sources. The Safe States Alliance is the only national association comprised of public health injury and violence prevention professionals representing all U.S. states and territories. Safe States members primarily work in state and local health departments, hospitals, universities, and non-profit organizational settings.

OVERVIEW OF THE SEED GRANT PROGRAM

The field of Injury and Violence Prevention (IVP) continues to evolve with new technologies, values, and ideas. Strategies such as blending and braiding funds for shared risk and protective factor approaches and partnering across sectors allows for a much more comprehensive approach and enhance IVP outcomes. Safe States Alliance is pleased to support up to four (4) seed grant awards¹ to advance innovative approaches such as these and others in alignment with upstream prevention strategies. Additional details regarding the example upstream and innovative approaches are below.

Shared Risk and Protective Factor Approaches

[Shared risk and protective factor \(SRPF\) approaches](#) are efforts to improve multiple population health and quality-of-life outcomes by aligning diverse, multi-sector interventions that positively impact the social drivers of health. More broadly, there are three defining characteristics of SRPF approaches:

1. An SRPF approach improves **multiple population-level outcomes**.
2. An SRPF approach impacts the **social drivers of health in positive and upstream ways**.

¹ The awarding and implementation of this seed grant program is contingent upon receipt of notice of award for the above stated cooperative agreement from the CDC by September 30, 2025.

3. An SRPF approach engages partners across **multiple disciplines and sectors**.

Programs that utilize an SRPF approach often support this work by blending and braiding funds. By combining funding streams for one purpose, programs are more likely to implement cross-cutting initiatives and achieve the individual goals of each program stream. For this seed grant program, Safe States welcomes any efforts that advance SRPF efforts, including, but not limited to, braiding and blending funding.

Build and Nurture Cross-Sector Partnerships

Identifying, building, and nurturing partnerships outside the public health sector is critical to moving IVP efforts upstream. Housing, transportation, and business sectors are examples of key sectors we can partner with to support communities. Safe States has developed the [Preparing to Partner](#) and [Roadmap for Advancing Community IVP Partnerships](#) for strengthening partnerships to advance community health outcomes.

Successful public-private partnerships include six critical steps:

1. **Prepare** to establish cross-sector partnerships by thinking strategically about how these partnerships might be successful in the communities.
2. **Connect** with partners by identifying shared priority areas.
3. **Plan** by collaborating with partners and sharing resources and information.
4. **Perform** with partners by implementing best practices, assigning roles, and examining the short-term outcomes of the work.
5. **Evaluate** to determine the quality and effectiveness of the program or policy.
6. **Share** your work with others who can benefit from your experience.

APPLICATION DETAILS

Eligible applicants include state, local, and territorial health, tribes and tribal organizations, hospitals/health care organizations, academic institutions, city and municipal governments, community-based organizations, businesses, and not-for-profit organizations.

Proposals can include additional milestones; however, the major tasks below must be incorporated into the proposal's Scope of Work. Please note that the project's timeline is fixed due to grant funding periods and is not flexible.

To support this project, the applicant will:

- Participate in a kick-off call with Safe States (completed no later than November 3, 2025.)
- Finalize the scope of work and timeline by November 7, 2025.
- Participate in regular check-in calls with Safe States throughout the project period.
- Participate in training throughout the project period.
- Support the development of case studies and other communications activities throughout the grant period.
- Submit activity reports and invoices on a minimum of a quarterly basis.
- Present an overview of the final project to Safe States committees, work groups, or at a conference.

(Cost for any conference presentations and travel should be included in the applicants' proposed budget.)

To support the applicant, Safe States will:

- Provide technological platforms (e.g. Zoom, conference lines, etc.) for any assessment activities.
- Provide input, training, and support throughout the background scan and the development of materials developed by the consultant.
- Review and provide feedback on quarterly reports.

AWARD AMOUNT

The total award available for this opportunity is \$20,000, inclusive of all expenses. Work completed after September 15, 2026, will not be reimbursable. Expenses cannot be prepaid for work performed outside of the period of performance.

TERM OF CONTRACT/AGREEMENT, FEE SCHEDULE, & INVOICING

The term of the funding opportunity is for *up to* 11 months (October 2025 - September 15, 2026). This funding opportunity is a cost-reimbursement, subrecipient grant made available through a cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (NU49CE000001, CFDA 93.136)². Proposals should be submitted with an itemized budget following the cost-categories found in the CDC budget guidance [here](#). Applicants should submit a budget proposal using Safe States' Excel budget table and narrative template. A copy of this Excel template can be downloaded [here](#). An invoicing and payment schedule will be determined in collaboration with the selected grantees. Invoices should be submitted at least quarterly, but not more often than monthly. Invoices must align with budget-approved categories, support agreed-upon deliverables and will be paid within 30 days of receipt.

PROPOSAL ELEMENTS & SELECTION CRITERIA

Please submit a narrative that includes all four (4) sections outlined below. The **narrative must be double-spaced and include section titles, one-inch margins, and Arial 11-point font**. The entire narrative should **not exceed a total of five (5) pages, excluding budget**.

A proposal in response to this opportunity must include the following elements:

1. **Proposed Project/Initiative (40 Points)**
 - a. Provide a summary of your organization.
 - b. Provide a detailed description of your proposed project and the innovative and/or upstream injury and violence prevention approach. Identify the steps and approaches you will take as part of this project.
 - c. What metrics will be collected to demonstrate progress?
2. **Organizational Readiness (20 Points)**
 - a. What existing resources could your organization and any partnering organizations leverage as part of the effort (e.g., existing staff, funding, strategic plans, etc.)?
 - b. Please describe any past or current organizational efforts focused on SRPF, cross-sector partnerships, and/upstream approaches for injury and violence prevention. Please describe

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how these organizational efforts connect to your proposed project/initiative.

3. Overall Benefit & Sustainability (30 Points)

- a. Describe how your project would address conditions/needs within your community. How would your proposed project increase cross-sector collaboration beyond traditional public health silos?
- b. If selected, what would be the overall benefit of this project for the community?
- c. After the Seed Grant funding ends, what programs, activities, or services do you anticipate will continue?

4. Budget (10 Points)

- a. Clearly describe how funds will be used to address project needs and implementation activities. All work must be completed by September 15, 2026. Expenses cannot be prepaid for work to be completed outside of the period of performance.
 - b. Complete the [budget spreadsheet template](#)³ with the following categories: direct labor, fringe rate, consultant/contractors, materials/supplies, travel, other expenses, and indirect rate (if applicable). Purchasing “giveaways,” incentive items, branded supplies, food, and equipment are **NOT** approved expenses for the Seed Grant Program. Additionally, research cannot be conducted as a part of the Seed Grant Program. The budget should include a clear and detailed narrative justification for all expenses. The budget template can be accessed and downloaded [here](#). Applicants should follow the federal budgeting guidelines found [here](#).
 - c. Budget revisions may be submitted during the awarded applicant’s funding cycle if the reallocation of funds is consistent with the RFP, original proposal and award notice, and Safe States’ requirements for how the funds may be used. Budget revisions must be submitted and approved BEFORE funds are expended.
 - d. The funds available to support the seed grants are made available through a cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (NU49CE000001, CFDA 93.136)⁴. On the Federal Subrecipient Guidance tab of the [budget template](#) is a list of minimum guidelines from the concerned federal agency (CDC) that will be passed through to awarded applicants. Official guidelines for pass through will be detailed in the award notice.
5. **A letter of support** (on agency letterhead) from the applicant organization must be submitted with the application. The letter should include confirmation that the direct supervisor or agency leadership agrees to and supports the applicant’s participation in the *Innovative and Upstream Approaches for Injury and Violence Prevention Seed Grant Program*. Letters must be formatted in PDF format.

Reviewers from Safe States will evaluate and score proposals based on their quality and adherence to the proposal elements described above. All applicants will be notified of their proposal **status by late-October 2025**. The anticipated start date for the seed grant program is on or before November 3, 2025.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposals will be accepted through October 15, 2025, at 5:00 PM EST. Submit your full proposal as one PDF file to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NF5F7HD>. Questions about this opportunity can be submitted to info@safestates.org or by calling (770) 690-9000.

³ Applicants must submit a budget file for submission using the required budget template which can be accessed [here](#) or by contacting info@SafeStates.org.

⁴ The awarding and implementation of this seed grant program is contingent upon receipt of notice of award for the above stated cooperative agreement from the CDC by September 30, 2025.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How is the Safe States Alliance team structured to support the oversight of this work?

Safe States has dedicated staff available to oversee this project and provide subject matter expertise to support programmatic activities. We will provide feedback and technical assistance through monthly check-in calls and/or emails. Zoom will be the primary meeting platform.

2. When are reports due, and will a template be provided?

Programmatic and budget reports are due at least quarterly. Exact dates will be provided during the Kick-Off Call, and templates for both the programmatic and budget reports will also be provided.

3. Which program staff are required to attend check-in calls?

Program and finance staff should attend the initial kick-off call. Only the program lead is required to attend the monthly check-in calls.

4. If you have previously funded an injury prevention topic area, will you consider funding the same topic area for this current round?

Yes. The selection process involves reviewing the overall approach and connection to upstream IVP prevention, not by injury topic area.

5. Are there any unallowable costs for this project?

Purchasing “giveaways,” incentive items, branded supplies, food, and equipment are **NOT** approved expenses for the Seed Grant Program. Additionally, research cannot be conducted as a part of the Seed Grant Program. Applicants should follow the federal budgeting guidelines found [here](#).