

Grant Proposal Guide For Federal Fiscal Year 2027

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) Highway Safety Office (HSO) is responsible for the planning, administration, and evaluation of the state's federal highway safety funding that is authorized by Congress. Federal funding is provided to assist states and their counties and communities to initiate projects, which direct activity towards resolving identified and prioritized traffic safety problems.

These funds are utilized to reduce Nebraska's fatal and serious injury crash rates. Statewide problem identification analysis reveals a wide variety of highway safety problems, ranging from human factors to roadway environment. The funding supports projects and activities that contribute to the reduction of traffic crashes and result in fewer deaths and injuries.

Background

Many types of organizations are eligible to receive traffic safety funding, including governmental agencies, political subdivisions of state, local, city and county government agencies; law enforcement agencies, state colleges and universities, school districts, public emergency service providers and 501(c)3 non-profit organizations.

Project funding assistance may be considered for up to three consecutive years and must be reapplied for annually. Funding is awarded to state and local safety-related agencies as "seed" money to assist in the development and implementation of programs in traffic safety priority areas. Funding for these projects is apportioned to States annually from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) according to a formula based on population and road miles.

Funding is provided to assist with the implementation of projects, which will address specifically identified traffic-related safety problems. Specific emphasis areas include:

- Impaired Driving
- Distracted Driving
- Occupant Protection
- Youth Driving and Education
- Speeding

Timeline

Grant proposals must cover the federal fiscal year (FY) 2027, which runs October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027. **Proposals must be completely submitted no later than March 31, 2026**, for consideration in the Highway Safety Plan. If you have questions, please contact Ryley Egger, HSO administrator at ryley.egger@nebraska.gov or 402-560-3113

What We're Looking For

Proposals should be competitive, address safety needs in communities and areas you represent, and use data-focused strategies to achieve NDOT's goal of getting toward zero fatalities. The entire request should be no more than four (4) pages in length.

Listed below are the required components, followed by a description of each component.

- Project Title And Summary
- Organizational Background
- Problem Identification
- Targets
- Objectives
- Strategies
- Budget Proposal / Budget Narrative
- Evaluation
- Cost Assumption

An example can be found at <https://dot.nebraska.gov/safety/hso/grants/>

Proposal Review and Selection Process

The NDOT HSO team will evaluate each proposal using data-driven criteria, including whether the proposal serves a high-priority county for safety in FY27, crash trends in the proposal's location, emphasis areas the proposal is helping to solve (i.e., raise seat belt rates), and the grantee's past performance. Additionally, the review team will score the proposal's competitiveness and ability to align with NDOT's mission of reaching zero fatalities.

A member of the NDOT HSO team may reach out to the person who submitted the proposal if there are questions or if clarifying information is needed. If a proposal scores high enough, the NDOT HSO team will ask the grantee to present it to the team, either in person or virtually.

This approach ensures federal funds are used responsibly and directed to areas with the greatest safety needs, while supporting accountability and measurable outcomes.

Agencies will be notified if their proposal is selected no later than June 1, 2026.

**Proposals can be emailed to ndot.hso@nebraska.gov
or mailed to the address below:**

**NDOT Highway Safety Office
1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502**

Targets

The anticipated long-term results of the project must influence one or more of the specific emphasis areas. The target(s) should be written to coincide with the HSO Statewide FY2026 Emphasis Area Targets.

The Emphasis Areas and Targets are:

- **Overall Emphasis Area:** Fatal, A and B Injury Crashes
Target: To decrease the increasing trend of fatal, A, and B crashes by maintaining a constant trend of 5,539 (2020-2024 rolling average) through December 31, 2027.
Target: To decrease the increasing trend for traffic fatalities by maintaining a constant trend of less than 235 (5-year rolling average in 2020-2024) through December 31, 2027.
- **Emphasis Area:** Alcohol-Impaired Fatal, A and B Injury Crashes
Target: Reduce alcohol-impaired fatal, A, and B crashes by 8.1 percent from 346 (2020-2024 rolling average) to 318 by December 31, 2027.
- **Emphasis Area:** Occupant Restraint Use
Target: To maintain the increasing trend of statewide observed seat belt use of front seat outboard occupants in passenger vehicles by maintaining a constant trend of 80.2 percentage points (5-year rolling average in 2020-2024) through December 31, 2027.
- **Emphasis Area:** Speed-Related Fatal, A and B Injury Crashes
Target: To decrease the increasing trend of speed-related fatal, A, and B crashes by maintaining a constant trend of 446 (2020-2024 rolling average) through December 31, 2027.
- **Emphasis Area:** Youth-Involved (age 20 and under) Fatal, A and B Injury Crashes
Target: To decrease the increasing trend of youth-involved fatal, A, and B crashes by maintaining a constant trend of 1,328 (2020-2024 rolling average) through December 31, 2027.
- **Emphasis Area:** All Other Factors - Fatal, A and B Injury Crashes
Target: To decrease the increasing trend of all other fatal, A, and B crashes by maintaining a constant trend of 4,748 (2020-2024 rolling average) through December 31, 2027.

(Injury type: A – disabling; B – visible but not disabling)

Priority Counties and Additional Emphasis Area Information

NEBRASKA PRIORITY COUNTIES FOR FY2027									
COUNTY CRASH RATE compared to STATE CRASH RATE									
PER 100 MILLION MILES									
County	Congressional District	2024 FAB Crashes	* FAB Crash Rate	* Alcohol Rate	* Speed Rate	* Youth Rate	* All Other Factors Rate	* Low Occ/Prot Percentage	** 2024 Population
ADAMS	Three	100	41.23	0.41	4.12	13.19	36.69	83.67%	31,196
BUFFALO	Three	196	27.89	0.43	2.42	10.53	25.04	85.91%	51,156
CASS	One	89	18.04	0.81	2.64	4.46	14.60	81.55%	27,492
COLFAX	One	28	21.54	0.77	2.31	10.00	18.46	78.26%	10,826
CUMING	One	30	21.81	0.73	4.36	10.18	16.72	60.71%	8,952
CUSTER	Three	44	24.97	0.57	3.97	6.24	20.43	73.17%	10,487
DAKOTA	Three	45	22.18	1.97	1.48	5.42	18.73	91.67%	21,335
DAWSON	Three	63	12.64	0.20	1.40	4.01	11.04	83.08%	24,554
DODGE	One	124	29.59	0.24	3.82	7.87	25.53	81.75%	37,884
DOUGLAS	Two	1,995	40.87	1.02	1.64	13.44	38.21	88.46%	601,158
GAGE	Three	36	15.06	1.67	1.26	5.02	12.13	83.72%	21,687
HALL	Three	203	28.07	1.24	2.90	7.05	23.92	86.19%	62,869
HAMILTON	Three	47	13.95	0.30	3.27	2.37	10.39	86.54%	9,564
LANCASTER	One	1,227	45.46	0.82	2.78	16.08	41.87	89.49%	332,857
LINCOLN	Three	146	22.29	0.61	2.60	9.01	19.09	79.33%	33,319
MADISON	One	88	28.03	0.96	3.50	9.24	23.57	71.43%	35,579
OTOE	One	49	18.48	0.00	1.13	5.66	17.35	78.05%	16,591
PLATTE	One	99	29.91	1.51	2.12	8.76	26.29	83.65%	35,499
SALINE	Three	38	31.11	1.64	4.09	9.01	25.38	82.98%	14,740
SARPY	One/Two	391	24.53	0.63	1.38	7.97	22.52	92.63%	204,828
SAUNDERS	One	40	14.77	1.11	2.21	3.69	11.44	84.44%	23,406
SCOTTS BLUFF	Three	154	51.79	2.35	5.72	18.50	43.72	65.43%	35,734
SEWARD	One	65	15.31	0.00	0.71	3.06	14.61	91.76%	17,769
WASHINGTON	One	52	25.50	0.00	1.96	9.32	23.54	86.67%	21,254
YORK	Three	73	18.59	0.51	2.04	4.33	16.04	76.47%	14,375
25 County Population									1,705,111
Statewide Totals		6096	27.93	0.75	2.09	5.49	25.09	84.17%	2,005,465
Blue indicates High Crash Rates for Alcohol, Speed and Youth and Red indicates Low Occupant Protection Usage									
Data taken from 2024 Preliminary State Crash Data, Fatal, A & B (FAB) Injuries, Statewide and County									
* Rates for county alcohol, speed, youth, and other factors are based on county crash reports for Fatal, A and B type injury crashes per 100 million miles per county using 2024 Annual Vehicles Miles - NDOT.									
*Occ/Prot Percentage are taken from the 2024 Preliminary State Crash Data, Fatal, A and B Injuries Crashes.									
**U.S. Census Bureau Population estimate as of July 1, 2024.									
**Population information is used to document the percentage of state's population represented.									
Revised 1/15/2026									
Nebraska 2024 data is the most current data for the FY2027 Update to 27-29 Three HSP Plan & provided by: NDOT Highway Safety Office, Lincoln NE									

85%
of Population