**2025-2026 Mini Grant Instructions**

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Active Transportation Mini Grant Program Overview

A. Introduction

The Michigan Fitness Foundation (MFF) and Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) request proposals for the development of programs that promote organized initiatives that encourage Michigan students in grades K-12 to walk, bicycle, or use other means of physical activity to get between home and school safely. The program is intended to help increase the number of children walking/biking/rolling safely between home and school. This program will fund up to fourteen programs in Michigan. Applicants can apply for funding of $15,000 per school, with a maximum of $120,000 per applicant for 8 or more schools. At least $7,500 should be set aside for a Program Coordinator and/or personnel work. Applications are competitive and funding is limited.

Eligible recipients include public, charter, or non-public schools serving students in grades K-12. Schools with existing SRTS programs are eligible to apply as well.

Public or private schools, school districts, 501(c) 3 organizations, and others working in partnership with school communities are welcome to apply on behalf of a school and must have the consent of the school principal at time of application. Awarded funds will be provided through the 2025-26 school year on a reimbursement basis.

B. Program Coordinator Requirement

The mini grant requires a fair degree of coordination among the school community and the implementers of planned activities. It is required that all applicants identify a main contact as the program coordinator regardless of the need to compensate their time through the grant. Applicants should note that while it may be appropriate to not set aside funds for a coordinator, no more than $7,500 per school should be used in the non-personnel budget.

C. The SRTS active transportation program will help increase the number of students walking or bicycling to and from school by accomplishing the following objectives:

1. Build awareness, support, and effective implementation of active transportation programs as measured by:

a. The number of students who participate throughout the program year

b. An increase in the number of adult volunteers assisting with active transportation program activities

c. The number of community partners who actively assist with program activities

2. Develop a sustainable active transportation program as measured by:

a. Continued active transportation route service

b. Education beyond the term of the funding award.

3. Create innovative programs and activities, as measured by:

a. Site visits and regular communication with MFF staff

D. Proposals with one or more of the following program components will be given priority:

• Programs that include collaborative partnerships with school transportation directors and other school and community stakeholders

• Programs that advance equity by addressing barriers to student participation in active transportation

• Programs offering low- or no-cost encouragement activities that will be sustainable beyond the grant period

• Programs that provide for participation of students who live beyond a reasonable walking distance from the school

• Programs that identify, in advance of funding, a clear approach to recruiting, educating, and retaining volunteers, especially beyond the term of the funding award

• First-time SRTS applicants

• Includes a minimum of one regularly serviced program that operates on a daily or weekly basis.