Iowa DOT Local Safety Funding Program Comparisons

Funding Program	Traffic Safety Improvement Program TSIP Site-Specific and Traffic Control Device (TCD)	Highway Safety Improvement Program – Local HSIP-Local (SWAP Program funds)	Urban/County-State Traffic Engineering Programs U-STEP and C-STEP	Traffic Engineering Assistance Program TEAP
Program Focus	Safety funds for improvements at locations with existing safety issues. More reactive; crash history, benefit-cost required for Site-Specific.	Safety funds for low-/medium-cost systemic improvements. May be reactive or more proactive/systemic/risk-based.	Locally-led improvements at or along Primary routes.	Consultant traffic and safety study for existing concern. Common types include intersection, corridor, school/pedestrian, etc. Roundabout concept/plan reviews.
Program Funding Details	$7-8M/Year (TCD: $500k total)	$5M/Year	Ongoing	Up to 150 hours of consultant time per project
Eligibility	LPAs, DOT Districts	LPAs	Joint DOT District + LPA	LPAs – counties and smaller cities (typ. pop. <35k)
Funding Details	Site-Specific – $500k maximum award Potential project cost/quantity "Division" for eligible safety costs Traffic Control Device (TCD) – Materials only	Typical maximum award $500k-$800k Potential project cost/quantity 'Division' for eligible safety costs	U-STEP/C-STEP Spot – $200k max U-STEP Linear – $400k max C-STEP Linear varies – See links	TEAP funds a Study of existing traffic/safety problem by a DOT On-Call Consultant TEAP study can provide basis for future TSIP, HSIP-Local, or U-STEP/C-STEP applications
Funds by Reimbursement?	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Required Local Responsibility and/or 'Local Match'?	Design/Admin/Inspect No Local Match Required (up to maximum reimbursable amount) Potential project cost/quantity 'Division' TCD – Construction/Labor (Materials only)	Design/Admin/Inspect No Local Match Required (up to maximum reimbursable amount) Potential project cost/quantity 'Division'	Design/Admin/Inspect U-STEP Spot/Linear, C-STEP Spot DOT District 55% / Local Match 45% C-STEP Linear varies – See links	None – Larger scope studies may use TEAP + Local Funds Some local agency Data Collection may be requested
Letting?	DOT or Local	DOT (See Swap Policy I.M. 1.150)	DOT or Local	N/A
Application or Letter of Request to?	DOT Traffic Operations and Safety Bureau	DOT Traffic Operations and Safety Bureau	DOT District Engineer	LPA Letter of request to DOT District Engineer. District will review and send letter to Chris Poole, State Traffic Engineer
Agreement with?	DOT Traffic Operations and Safety Bureau + DOT Local Systems Bureau	DOT Local Systems Bureau	DOT Staff Action DOT District + DOT Local Systems Bureau	DOT Traffic Operations and Safety Bureau + DOT Project Management/Consultant Coordination
Application Requires Crash Data and Benefit-Cost Analysis?	Yes (Required for Site-Specific, beneficial for TCD)	No (Traffic, crash, cost estimate data is beneficial when available at application and will be considered in review)	No (Engineering analysis required including exhibit and cost estimate)	No (Data is beneficial when available to describe issues in letter of request)
Application Deadline Fiscal Year	August 15, 2026 FY28	November 15, 2026 FY28	Ongoing	Ongoing
Program Link and Applications	Iowa DOT TSIP	Iowa DOT HSIP-Local	Iowa DOT U-STEP Iowa DOT C-STEP	Iowa DOT TEAP

More details at https://iowadot.gov/consultants-contractors/traffic-safety/programs. Additional information and more programs at: https://iowadot.gov/transportation-development/grant-programs/grant-program-list

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