

WHEELWISE BY NORTHSTAR MENTORS

Grant-Funding Playbook

A practical guide for public safety agencies seeking funding for youth micromobility safety education.

This playbook identifies the federal and state grant categories that support WheelWISE, explains how the program satisfies each funding rationale, and provides the documentation your agency needs to submit a credible, compliant grant application.

- 01 The Funding Landscape
- 02 Grant Categories & Alignment
- 03 What Makes WheelWISE Fundable
- 04 Documentation Your Agency Receives
- 05 Partnership Models & Grant Fit
- 06 Application Language Guide
- 07 Next Steps

SECTION 01

The Funding Landscape

Youth micromobility safety sits at the intersection of four well-funded federal priority areas: transportation safety, youth injury prevention, community policing, and out-of-school-time programming. Agencies that have historically funded traffic safety, SRO programs, or community health initiatives already have pathways to fund WheelWISE — often without new grant categories.

800%

Rise in youth e-bike ER visits since 2017

\$0

Student cost — fully grant-fundable

12

Sessions with documented outcomes

4

Federal funding pathways that apply

Why This Is a Fundable Priority Now

E-bike and e-scooter adoption among middle schoolers has accelerated faster than safety education, equipment standards, or local ordinances. Emergency room data from Rady Children's Hospital, CPSC NEISS, and AAOS document an 800% increase in youth micromobility-related ER visits since 2017.¹ This is a documented, data-backed youth safety crisis — exactly the kind of problem federal and state prevention grants are designed to address.

Grant reviewers prioritize programs with: a clear population need, evidence-aligned curricula, measurable outcomes, and a sustainable delivery model. WheelWISE was built to satisfy all four. The sections below map each grant category to specific program components.

Key framing for grant applications: WheelWISE is not a bike safety program. It is a structured youth readiness system that develops decision-making, hazard awareness, and civic responsibility through real-world mobility scenarios — with SEL integration and documented outcomes across 12 sessions.

1. CPSC NEISS data via SaferProducts.gov; Rady Children's Hospital micromobility injury study; AAOS position statement on e-mobility safety. Live data: wheelwiseteens.org/injury-dashboard

SECTION 02

Grant Categories & Alignment

WheelWISE aligns to four primary federal funding streams and multiple state-level equivalents. Each category below includes the program's alignment rationale, applicable grant programs, and the WheelWISE components that satisfy key eligibility criteria.

Grant Category	Federal Programs	WheelWISE Alignment
Transportation Safety Education	NHTSA State & Community Grants DOT Safe Streets & Roads for All FHWA Transportation Alternatives	12-session curriculum covering rules of the road, legal basics, and IPDE decision process. Documented outcomes align to NHTSA youth pedestrian/cyclist safety priorities.
Youth Injury Prevention	CDC Injury Prevention (NCIPC) HRSA Maternal & Child Health State Department of Health grants	Data-documented 800% ER visit increase creates clear prevention rationale. Pre/post assessments measure knowledge and behavior change — the core CDC prevention metric.
Community Policing & Youth Outreach	DOJ COPS Hiring Program DOJ COPS Community Policing Dev. BJA Youth Violence Initiative	SRO/community liaison co-facilitation model. Department-branded materials and community-facing events build measurable public trust outcomes.
After-School & Youth Programming	21st Century Community Learning Centers Title IV-A Student Support & Academic Enrichment State After-School Network grants	Designed for in-school and after-school delivery. Integrates CASEL SEL competencies and Common Core ELA — meeting academic enrichment eligibility criteria.
Fire & EMS Prevention	FEMA Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S;) State EMS prevention grants	Battery safety, fire hazard awareness, and emergency response scenarios address lithium-ion fire risk — a documented FEMA emerging priority for youth community outreach.

State-level equivalents exist for all five categories. Most states administer federal pass-through grants via their Departments of Transportation, Health, and Public Safety. Contact your state grant coordinator or use [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) to search current open solicitations.

SECTION 03

What Makes WheelWISE Fundable

Grant reviewers evaluate youth prevention programs against five core criteria. WheelWISE was designed to satisfy all five — not as an afterthought, but as structural requirements embedded in the program architecture.

01 Evidence-Based Rationale

WheelWISE is built on a documented public health crisis. National injury data (CPSC NEISS, Rady Children's, AAOS) establish a clear, data-backed need. The program cites peer-reviewed literature on adolescent risk perception, SEL effectiveness, and behavioral health outcomes.

02 Standards-Aligned Curriculum

The 12-session curriculum aligns to: CASEL SEL Framework (5 core competencies), NGSS Science & Engineering Practices, SHAPE America National Health Education Standards, Common Core ELA Standards (Grades 6–8), and AI Literacy Standards (emerging). Full standards crosswalk available on request.

03 Measurable Outcomes

Every cohort produces: pre/post knowledge assessment data, session completion rates, peer PSA projects, and a Safety Ambassador credential. These metrics map directly to the outcome measures required by NHTSA, CDC, and 21st CCLC grant reporting frameworks.

04 Qualified Delivery Personnel

WheelWISE does not require educator certification. Sessions are designed for delivery by SROs, community liaisons, firefighters, and trained facilitators using included session guides. A professional development module prepares department staff for facilitation.

05 Sustainability & Replication

The Department-Led Delivery model provides a perpetual curriculum license — reducing per-cohort cost to near-zero after initial training. This satisfies the sustainability requirement in most federal grant continuation applications.

The W.I.S.E. Learning Model

Watch · Investigate · Share · Empower

WheelWISE uses a proprietary four-phase learning cycle developed by NorthStar Mentors. Each session moves students through observation, analysis, peer teaching, and action — producing both knowledge retention and behavioral readiness. The model is SEL-integrated and was designed for grades 6–8 developmental appropriateness.

This proprietary framework is a key differentiator in grant applications — it demonstrates intentional pedagogical design, not a loosely assembled set of activities.

SECTION 04

Documentation Your Agency Receives

Every WheelWISE cohort produces a documentation package that satisfies standard grant reporting requirements. The table below maps each deliverable to the grant frameworks that require it.

Documentation Deliverable	Included In	Satisfies
Pre/post knowledge assessment data	All models	CDC outcome metrics; NHTSA reporting; 21st CCLC academic enrichment
Session completion report	All models	Students reached; sessions delivered; contact hours logged
Department co-branding on all materials	Co-Host & Deliver	DOJ COPS community relations documentation; city council reporting
Student Safety Ambassador credentials	All models	Youth program completion documentation; 21st CCLC enrichment outcomes
Peer PSA project log	Co-Host & Deliver	Community outreach deliverables; DOJ COPS and FEMA FP&S; public education reporting
Helmet-fit check count	Co-Host & Deliver	NHTSA equipment safety outreach; injury prevention program metrics

Documentation Deliverable	Included In	Satisfies
Officer/staff facilitation hours	Co-Host & Deliver	DOJ COPS staff utilization; FEMA AFG community outreach hours
After-action report templates	Deliver model	Internal accountability; annual report attachments; grant continuation evidence
Program summary narrative	All models	Grant application attachments; press release template; community safety plan supplement

Documentation packages are formatted for direct attachment to grant reports. Agencies receive editable templates at program onboarding — no additional formatting required.

SECTION 05

Partnership Models & Grant Fit

WheelWISE offers three partnership models. Each has a different grant application profile — the right model depends on your department's operational capacity and which funding stream you are pursuing.

Community Sponsor Entry Point

Tagline	Your department funds or endorses the program. WheelWISE handles all delivery.
Staff Time	Minimal — attendance at kick-off and close-out
Delivery	WheelWISE team
Best For	DOT, NHTSA, CDC prevention grants where department is listed as community partner
Grant Note	Strongest for: Transportation Safety Education, Youth Injury Prevention
Quarterly Outputs	Students reached and sessions delivered · Department name on all credentials · Community-relations narrative

Department Co-Host Recommended

Tagline	SRO or community liaison co-facilitates alongside WheelWISE — sharing visibility and outcomes.
---------	--

Staff Time	1–2 hours per week during program run
Delivery	Joint facilitation
Best For	DOJ COPS, FEMA FP&S;, and state community policing grants requiring active department participation
Grant Note	Strongest for: Community Policing & Outreach, Fire/EMS Prevention
Quarterly Outputs	Students reached · sessions delivered · PSAs produced by students · Helmet-fit checks completed · Officer hours documented · Grant documentation reflecting department partnership

Department-Led Delivery **Full Ownership**

Tagline	License the curriculum and run it independently — perpetually, on your schedule.
Staff Time	45–60 minutes per session + facilitation training (one-time)
Delivery	Department staff
Best For	21st CCLC, Title IV-A, and after-school network grants requiring department-owned program
Grant Note	Strongest for: After-School Programming, sustainability-focused continuation grants
Quarterly Outputs	Students reached · sessions delivered · Safety Ambassador credentials issued · After-action report templates included · Grant-eligible program documentation

SECTION 06

Application Language Guide

The language below is ready to paste directly into grant application narrative sections. Adapt to match your department's specific context, partnership model, and grant category.

Statement of Need

Youth micromobility injuries have increased 800% since 2017, driven by rapid adoption of e-bikes and e-scooters among middle schoolers without a corresponding increase in safety education, equipment standards, or behavioral readiness. In [your jurisdiction], youth riders are operating high-speed electric vehicles on shared roadways without formal instruction in traffic law, hazard recognition, or emergency decision-making. This represents an urgent and preventable community health priority.

Program Description

WheelWISE is a 12-session youth readiness curriculum developed by NorthStar Mentors for grades 6–8. The program uses the proprietary W.I.S.E. Learning Model (Watch, Investigate, Share, Empower) — a structured, SEL-integrated framework aligned to CASEL, NGSS, and SHAPE America standards. Sessions address rules of the road, legal basics, gear and battery safety, and real-world hazard decision-making using the IPDE process (Identify, Predict, Decide, Execute). Delivery is designed for school resource officers, community liaison staff, and trained facilitators using included session guides — no educator certification required.

Measurable Outcomes

Each cohort produces: (1) pre/post knowledge assessment scores demonstrating knowledge gain and behavioral readiness change, (2) session completion reports documenting students reached and contact hours logged, (3) peer-produced public service announcements distributed to the school community, (4) Safety Ambassador credentials awarded to completers, and (5) a program summary narrative suitable for grant reporting, community meetings, and city council presentations.

Sustainability Statement

WheelWISE is designed for sustainable, low-cost replication. The Department-Led Delivery model provides a perpetual curriculum license, enabling the department to deliver the program year after year without ongoing external costs beyond materials. Facilitator training is a one-time investment. This model satisfies standard grant continuation requirements and reduces the per-student cost significantly after the first cohort.

Organizational Capacity

[Your Department Name] is partnering with NorthStar Mentors, the organization responsible for WheelWISE curriculum development, facilitator training, and program quality assurance. NorthStar Mentors provides all session guides, assessment instruments, documentation templates, and outcome reporting frameworks. [Your Department] contributes [facilitation/co-facilitation/sponsorship], community access, and on-the-ground implementation support.

SECTION 07

Next Steps

The fastest path to a submitted grant application is a fit call — a 30-minute conversation to identify the right partnership model, confirm your grant timeline, and determine which documentation packages you need. Use the steps below to move forward.

**Step
1**

Identify your grant target

Review the Grant Categories table on page 3. Match your department's existing grant portfolio to the categories listed — or identify a new open solicitation at Grants.gov or your state grant coordinator.

**Step
2**

Choose your partnership model

Review the three models on page 6. Sponsor requires the least internal capacity; Co-Host is the most grant-competitive; Department-Led Delivery offers the strongest sustainability narrative.

**Step
3**

Request a fit call

Schedule a 30-minute call with the WheelWISE team. Bring your grant deadline and the category you're pursuing. We'll confirm alignment, identify the right documentation package, and walk you through the program overview.

**Step
4**

Receive your documentation package

After the fit call, WheelWISE provides a grant-ready program summary, standards crosswalk, outcome metrics template, and partnership letter of support — everything your grant writer needs.

Ready to identify your grant pathway?

Schedule a 30-minute fit call with the WheelWISE team. Bring your grant deadline. We'll handle the rest.

Book a Fit Call → tally.so/r/9q6o4X

Questions? Contact us at info@wheelwiseteens.org

WheelWISE by NorthStar Mentors
info@wheelwiseteens.org wheelwiseteens.org

wheelwiseteens.org [Request a Demo](#) [Book a Fit Call](#)

© 2025–2026 NorthStar Mentors. WheelWISE is a registered trademark of NorthStar Mentors. All grant language provided as a starting template — consult your grants officer before submission. Program details, pricing, and availability subject to change. Contact info@wheelwiseteens.org for current information.