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## December 2006 SRTS Program Tracking Brief

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*The Monthly SRTS Program Tracking Brief is prepared by the National Center for Safe Routes to School to provide information about State SRTS programs. Each month, a different snapshot and brief analysis of one key trend across all State programs is presented. It also provides a tracking table summarizing key attributes from all programs.*

### December 2006 Snapshot: Current Spending by State Programs

Little more than one year after the Federal Safe Routes to School Program was established, a total of sixteen State Safe Routes to School Programs<sup>1</sup> (31%) have announced spending on either local SRTS programs or statewide SRTS activities. A total of approximately<sup>2</sup> \$17.6 million has been provided or committed to local SRTS programs or for statewide SRTS activities.<sup>3</sup> These figures show that the national SRTS program continues to grow, and when also considering those that currently have open application periods (13) or are close to announcing funding (1), more than half of all states (30 states, 59%) are actively involved in their funding process. The National Center for Safe Routes to School continues to report that the national SRTS program enjoys impressive overall success and maintains long-term promise.

Of the 16 states, 10 (20% of all states) have gone through a competitive application process, announcing over \$13.8 million in funding for local programs. These programs include infrastructure improvements to make walking and bicycling safer and more appealing for children, and SRTS education, encouragement, and enforcement activities. Seven states have announced a total of about \$3.8 million for statewide SRTS activities.

Also as of December 1, 2006, 49 states, including the District of Columbia, have State-level SRTS programs in various stages of progress. These range from being in the early stages of developing their application processes to three states that have already opened or closed a second application cycle to fund local SRTS programs.

#### Key Points (December 2006) - SRTS Spending:

- 16 states have announced funding for local SRTS programs.
- Approximately \$17.6 million has been spent or committed for local SRTS programs.
- At least 285 schools in those 16 states are participating in state-funded SRTS programs.
- 49 of the 51 states (including D.C.) have SRTS programs in various stages of progress.

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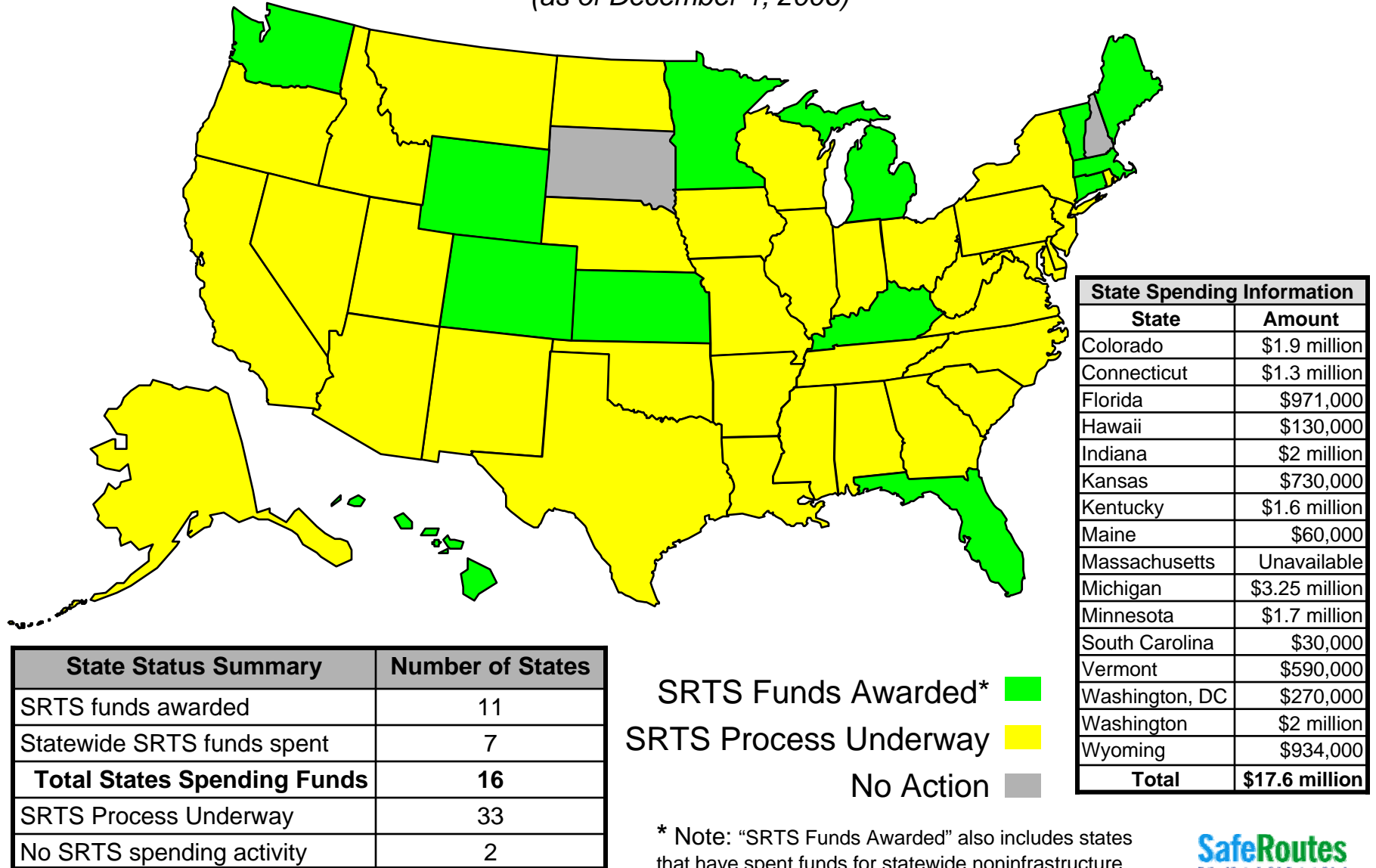
<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this tracking report, the District of Columbia is treated as a state, because it receives funds and is subject to the same program requirements and restrictions as states. This approach also simplifies the tracking and reporting of SRTS programs.

<sup>2</sup> The figures are approximate because two states, Maine and Massachusetts, have open-ended contracts to a state-level agency or organization that is providing SRTS services to schools and communities, but have not calculated or invoiced current expenditures.

<sup>3</sup> This spending figure does not include state-level program administration costs, such as salaries for State Coordinators, office expenses, printing, travel, etc. As of October 2006, 49 states are operating SRTS programs, and therefore have spent some funds for program administration and operations.

# Safe Routes to School: Current Spending by State Programs

(as of December 1, 2006)





## Detailed Notes and Comments:

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*Methodology: The information contained in the Program Status Table and discussed in the overall report has been provided to the National Center for Safe Routes to School by State SRTS Programs in each state, and has not been verified through other means.*

<sup>1</sup> **Coordinator Status** options include:

- Permanent: A full-time, permanent State SRTS Coordinator has been named by the State Department of Transportation. A permanent SRTS Coordinator position usually indicates that a State SRTS program has adequate institutional infrastructure to effectively operate the program.
- Interim: An interim SRTS point of contact has been named by the State DOT. This person might oversee the initial establishment of the State SRTS program, as well as operation of the State's program until a permanent Coordinator is in place. Naming an interim point of contact is frequently the first step that a State DOT takes in establishing an SRTS program.
- Vacant: The State has already had a permanent SRTS Coordinator in place, but that person has left the position and it is vacant. An interim point of contact may have been named, but the permanent position is vacant and it is presumed that will be filled again.
- None: The State DOT has not named an interim point of contact

<sup>2</sup> **SRTS Application Status** options include [Brackets indicate the funding cycle]:

- No Action
- Preparation: The State SRTS Program has started developing an application process, including some of the following types of activities: identifying program requirements, determining spending levels, developing the application, review and selection process, establishing an advisory board, and/or preparing application materials.
- Open: The State SRTS Program has opened its application process. Brackets indicate the funding cycle.
- Closed: Applications for SRTS programs have closed, and the State SRTS Program is reviewing applications and will next announce selected funding recipients. Brackets indicate the funding cycle.
- Awarded: The State has already gone through a complete application process, and has announced selected funding recipients. In some instances, local programs have already received funds. This category also includes States that have completed a funding cycle and are preparing to release a new application.

<sup>3</sup> **Local SRTS Projects Funded** options include:

- No: No funds have been awarded to local SRTS funds. The State SRTS program may be at any point prior to announcing selected projects, including the no action, preparation, open, and closed Application Status options described above.
- Yes: The State Program has announced funding for selected local SRTS programs or projects. This typically indicates that a competitive process has been followed, but in some instances the State may directly select local programs to fund.
- [number]: If known, the number of schools in the State that are receiving SRTS funds or state-funded SRTS activities. This number will usually be an estimate, because many funding recipients will conduct programs in numerous schools.

<sup>4</sup> **Amount Awarded** includes the amounts that State SRTS Programs have announced they will spend on specific local SRTS projects or programs. This does not identify funds that have actually been dispersed. It also does not include the amounts that a State has committed to making available through its application process.

<sup>5</sup> **Statewide Spending** includes funds that State SRTS Programs have announced they will spend on statewide SRTS activities. These are typically funds provided to statewide organizations or agencies that will conduct SRTS-related encouragement, education, enforcement, or training. These are funds that are directly intended to reach target audiences; the category does not include State SRTS program administrative costs, such as Coordinator salary, office expenses, travel, printing, etc.

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<sup>6</sup> Florida's statewide application process opened on November 15, 2006, however Florida's SRTS program initially distributed funds to district offices that each followed slightly different processes for funding. As a result, some districts have already awarded local funding. In general, Florida's awards are either application-based or noncompetitively selected by the district offices. Also, the spending amount for Florida has been reduced from that reported in the October 2006 Tracking Report. Subsequent reporting from the Florida SRTS Program indicates that as of December 1, \$961,283 has actually been spent or committed to specific projects;

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the amount reported in October included long-term budgeting by some district offices not yet dedicated to specific projects.

<sup>7</sup> Maine's SRTS program held an application process that ended in August 2006, but is awaiting final information on available funding levels. Selected funding applications will be announced after funding levels have been finalized by the Maine DOT. A statewide contract to promote and encourage Walk to School Day participation was awarded.

<sup>8</sup> Massachusetts' SRTS program is currently conducting education and encouragement activities at 28 schools. The State announced its SRTS program and then selected these initial participating schools based on criteria to ensure distribution between different populations, parts of the state, and rural, suburban, and urban locations.

<sup>9</sup> Michigan announced a \$3.25 million contract with a state organization and University to conduct education, encouragement, training, and evaluation activities for FY05-FY09. As of December 2006, approximately \$433,000 in spending had been authorized.