



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

830 Scenic Drive, P.O. Box 3271, Modesto, CA 95353
Fax: (209) 558-8320
www.hsahealth.org

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Contact: Kamlesh Kaur
Phone: (209) 558-6833

**Stanislaus County Health Services Agency Receives Grants for
Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Child Passenger Safety Education and Training Programs**

Stanislaus County – The Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Public Health Division is pleased to announce that the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, has provided grant funding to Child Passenger Safety Program for the fifth consecutive year. A \$100,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) will fund safety education and training programs aimed at helping parents and caretakers make sure their child is riding safely when in a vehicle. For the second year now, the Agency has also received an additional \$100,000 grant from OTS aimed at improving the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. The grants both cover the 2021 federal fiscal year, which is from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

A nationwide survey conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that half of all car seats are misused. Car crashes remain the leading cause of death for children 13 and under, and car seats save lives by reducing the risk of injury or death.

“Car seats save lives,” OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. “Keeping children safe in a vehicle is as important as ever, and funding for car seat programs play a vital role in ensuring the proper use of child safety seats.”

Funding for child passenger safety will go toward a variety of activities to promote occupant safety and decrease injuries and deaths due to improper use of car seats, boosters or seat belts:

- Child seat safety check-ups/inspections;
- Child safety seat education classes;
- Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technician training and recertification training;
- Distribution of child safety seats to families in need; and,
- Promotion of the importance of discarding used and expired car seats.

“Buckling up is one of the simplest ways to save lives and reduce injuries,” said Heather Duvall, Manager for Community Wellness and Prevention at Public Health. “The Child Passenger Safety program is excited to continue educating parents and childcare providers about the proper use of car seats to help all families reduce the risk of injury to their child.”

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Additionally, bicycle and pedestrian-related collisions continue to remain high. In the 2019 fiscal year, 1,166 pedestrians and bicyclists were killed in crashes on California roads, and an additional 18,376 were injured. Even during the coronavirus pandemic, so far this year in Stanislaus County 13 pedestrians and 2 bicyclists have been killed in collisions with vehicles, and another 96 pedestrians and 60 bicyclists have been injured.

Pedestrian and bicycle safety funding will be used to conduct youth and adult education, including:

- Bicycle safety classes and educational workshops;
- Bicycle and pedestrian safety for youth and older adults;
- Public education on the importance of safety equipment like reflective armbands, leg bands, headlights, taillights, reflectors and helmets; and,
- Participation in national education campaign events and programs such as National Walk to School Day, Bicycle Safety Month, Pedestrian Safety Month, Safe Routes to Schools and Vision Zero.

With roadways becoming more crowded, the importance of understanding shared responsibilities of safety amongst drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians has never been more important. The listed activities are intended to teach and encourage skills that will help individuals to maneuver safely throughout their communities, reduce preventable injuries and deaths, and encourage active modes of transportation.

“Our goal is that education will change poor behaviors and make our roads safer,” OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. “This funding will help ensure the safety of those out biking or walking.”

Funding for these programs was provided by grants from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For more information about these injury prevention programs, please call (209) 558-5657.



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