



## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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

(Stanislaus County, CA) - The Stanislaus County Health Services Agency (SCHSA) is pleased to announce that the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, has provided grant funding to the Keep Baby Safe (KBS) Car Seat Safety Program for the fourth consecutive year. A \$75,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) will fund child passenger safety education and training programs aimed at helping parents and caretakers make sure their child is riding safely. The Agency has also received an additional \$80,000 grant from OTS aimed at improving the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. The grants both cover the 2020 federal fiscal year, which is from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

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.

"Children are our future and it is important that parents and caretakers keep children safe by using the right car seat, and installing it correctly," OTS Director Rhonda Craft said. "Buckling up is one of the simplest ways to save lives and reduce injuries," added Heather Duvall, Community Wellness and Prevention Manager for SCHSA. "The Keep Baby Safe 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."

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;
- Safety seat usage surveys; and,
- Promotion of the importance of discarding used and expired car seats.

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Additionally, bicycle and pedestrian-related collisions have been on the rise the past five years. In 2016, 867 pedestrians and 147 bicyclists were killed in crashes on California roads, 33% and 14% increases, respectively, from 2012. Last year in Stanislaus County alone, 16 pedestrians and 8 bicyclists were killed, and 176 pedestrians and 147 bicyclists were injured in collisions with vehicles.

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.

“No matter which way you get around, you play a part in roadway safety,” OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. “These grant programs are intended to educate residents on ways they can make themselves and those around them safe when they walk, bike or ride in cars.”

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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