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Riverside County health officials receive \$379,000 in traffic safety grants

More than \$350,000 in countywide traffic safety grants will go towards the protection and safety of young people throughout Riverside County, according to Riverside University Health System – Public Health officials.

“These grants will go a long way in supporting efforts to educate youth in matters of safety. We’re doing more than just educating kids; we’re saving lives,” said Michael Osur, public health assistant director. “Also important, this is a grant that will address the safety of older adults. We’re proud to be part of finding health and safety solutions for all Riverside County residents.”

The grants, which come from California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, will help fund three programs operated by Riverside University Health System – Public Health.

The grant amounts and the programs to be funded:

(\$129,000) Seatbelts Are for Everyone (SAFE) Program:

The SAFE program will collaborate with elementary and middle schools, local law enforcement and the Safe Kids Inland Empire coalition to educate students and their families with the goal to improve the consistent and proper use of seat belts.

(\$135,000) PedBikeIT (Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education Program)

The main focus of the program is to train school staff, police explorers and community members to teach younger children about pedestrian and bicycle safety. The program also

includes education for older adults to decrease pedestrian injuries and fatalities by addressing mobility and transportation issues faced by the senior population.

(\$115,000) **Be Wiser (Teen Impaired and Distracted Driving Program):** Seeks to reduce deaths and injuries from alcohol-impaired and distracted teen drivers. The program will work with eight (8) selected high schools; training student facilitators to create awareness campaigns around the issues of teenage alcohol-impaired and distracted driving collisions.

To learn more about injury-prevention programs, go to <http://www.rivcoips.org/home/>