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May 12, 2016

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Riverside County health officials to use \$200,000-plus grant to help protect young people

Riverside County health officials have accepted more than \$200,000 in grant funds to protect the safety of young people through the Student Safety Valet Program and other pedestrian and bicycle safety activities.

School districts that have already successfully implemented the program include Corona-Norco, Murrieta, Perris Elementary and Coachella Valley. As a part of the program, schools receive education, training, and safety supplies such as reflective vests, safety cones and “Kid-Alert” signs.

“Ensuring the safety of students and children as they walk and bike on streets throughout Riverside County is considered one of our top priorities,” said Michael Osur, deputy director of Public Health in Riverside County. Injury Prevention Services will oversee this grant.

The grant, which comes from California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, will help fund this program operated by Riverside University Health System – Public Health. The grant amount is \$204,000.

The Riverside County Student Valet Program seeks to reduce the number of children injured by vehicles as they walk or bike to and from school. The goal is to improve traffic flow around schools; educate children and parents about safety; and equip them with items like helmets to improve safety. Area schools are currently being invited to participate.

To learn more about Public Health’s Injury Prevention Services, visit: <http://www.rivcoips.org/home/>.