



Riverside County Public Health

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Riverside County health officials to use \$570,000 in grants to help protect young people

Riverside County health officials will be using more than \$570,000 in grants to protect the safety of young people -- from toddlers in car seats to first-time drivers behind the wheel.

“Protecting the health of all county residents is a top priority, but it is especially critical when it comes to young people,” said Susan Harrington, health department director. “They are our future.”

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

The grant amounts and the programs to be funded:

(\$232,780) **Child Passenger Safety Technical Support Program:** Health officials will provide guidance setting up community fitting stations; develop bilingual safety education material, and conduct car seat technician trainings.

(\$181,600) **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. Schools are currently being approached to participate.

(\$160,000) **Students Taking Action Program:** Seeks to reduce deaths and injuries from alcohol-impaired underage drivers. Establishes Students Taking Action awareness program at six selected high schools; trains student facilitators to create awareness campaigns around the issues of underage alcohol-impaired collisions; and conducts awareness campaigns educating youth on the consequences of driving after drinking and riding with an impaired driver.

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