

Los Angeles County PLACE Program Awarded California Office of Traffic Safety Grant to Advance Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety in Communities Experiencing Health Inequities and Traffic Safety Concerns

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention has been awarded \$400,000 in grant funds from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, to strengthen pedestrian and bicycle safety in communities experiencing disproportionately high rates of traffic-related injuries and deaths. The grant will support education, outreach, and on-the-ground safety efforts aimed at youth, adults, and older adults.

Traffic-related injuries remain a leading cause of preventable harm, particularly in neighborhoods facing long-standing health and safety concerns. This OTS grant will allow the department to work directly with residents, schools, and community partners to improve safety and ensure people can travel safely to work, school, places of worship, and recreation.

“This investment recognizes that traffic safety is a public health and equity issue,” said Dr. Tony Kuo, MSHS, MD, Director, Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention.

“Everyone should be able to access safe streets, no matter where they live. Through education, community engagement, and distribution of free safety equipment, we are helping residents move through their neighborhoods safely so they can get to work, school, play, and worship without fear of serious injury or death.”

As part of the grant, the PLACE Program will carry out a comprehensive set of pedestrian and bicycle safety activities, including but not limited to:

- Participating in traffic safety fairs and community events to reach residents.
- Conducting pedestrian and bicycle safety presentations in community and classroom settings.
- Distributing pedestrian and bicycle safety items – such as bicycle lights and reflective bands – at no cost to youth and community members in need who receive traffic safety education.
- Developing culturally relevant bicycle and pedestrian safety educational materials for classrooms, workshops, and community events.

- Distributing and properly fitting bicycle helmets at no cost to community members in need who receive helmet safety education.
- Conducting bicycle safety and maintenance workshops to teach community members how to repair and maintain their bicycles, while sharing traffic safety rules and best practices to promote safe travel.

Through these coordinated efforts, the division aims to reduce preventable injuries and deaths while empowering communities with the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to stay safe on the road.

The division looks forward to implementing these grant efforts throughout 2025-2026. Grant activities will run through September 30th, 2026.