

# NEWS RELEASE



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## For Immediate Release:

December 30, 2021

## Public Health Awarded Grants from the State to Address Traffic Safety

**LOS ANGELES** –The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) awarded two grants totaling \$314,000 to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention to help support a new initiative that will promote traffic safety in the community, including reducing teen distracted driving on county roads. The goals of this initiative align with Los Angeles County’s own Vision Zero Initiative by supporting the County’s Child Passenger Safety Program, which helps low-income families ensure their children’s car seats are safe and fit right.

In Los Angeles County, vehicle collisions are the leading cause of death for children between the ages of 5 to 14, the second leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 15 to 24, and the fourth leading cause of premature death overall among LA County residents. The OTS grants will enable Public Health to reduce these preventable vehicle collisions by educating adults and young people on traffic safety.

“Our Child Passenger Safety program helps ensure that, regardless of income, every family has access to the appropriate car seat for their child, keeping our children safe and protected,” said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. “Thanks to OTS’ support, we are also able to support efforts that encourage our teen drivers to avoid distractions while driving.”

“Our goal with these programs is that education and awareness will encourage people to think of how they can protect themselves, loved ones, other drivers and pedestrians when they get behind the wheel and make our roads safer,” OTS Director Barbara Rooney said.


Grant funds will support activities that improve traffic safety including:

- Car Seat Safety Clinics that demonstrate how to install car seats and offer free car seats to families in need.
- Evidence-based, virtual workshops on road safety for teens and new drivers in LA County.

The grant program runs from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. Funding for these programs was provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Department of Public Health is committed to promoting health equity and ensuring optimal health and well-being for all 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health. Nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health comprises nearly 4,500 employees and has an annual budget of \$1.2 billion. To learn more about Los Angeles County Public Health, please visit [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov), and follow LA County Public Health on social media at [twitter.com/lacounty.gov](https://twitter.com/lacounty.gov), and follow LA County Public Health on social media at [twitter.com/lapublichealth](https://twitter.com/lapublichealth), [facebook.com/lapublichealth](https://www.facebook.com/lapublichealth), [instagram.com/lapublichealth](https://www.instagram.com/lapublichealth) and [youtube.com/lapublichealth](https://www.youtube.com/lapublichealth).

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*Los Angeles County Department of Public Health works to protect health,  
prevent disease, and promote health and well-being.*