

## OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY



### Highway Safety Grant Request for Proposal Federal Fiscal Year 2011

Each year, the Office of Highway Safety (OHS) awards grants to state and local governmental units and non-profit organizations to help solve Idaho's most critical behavioral traffic safety problems. Our goal is to reduce deaths and injuries from motor vehicle crashes through funding programs and activities that promote safe travel on Idaho's transportation systems, and through collecting, maintaining and disseminating reliable crash statistics. Projects that are considered for funding must address the emphasis areas identified in Idaho's Strategic Highway Safety Plan. They are: safety restraint use, impaired driving, aggressive driving, inattentive driving, youthful drivers, vulnerable users (bicycle, pedestrian, mature drivers), commercial vehicles, motorcycle, and crash response (EMS), primarily EMS extrication equipment and/or education. Other highway safety problem areas may also be considered. Funding is also available for electronic citation projects.

The highway safety grant year is the Federal Fiscal Year 2011, which begins October 1, 2010 and runs through September 30, 2011. The grants can provide startup or "seed" money for new programs, provide new direction to existing safety programs, or support state planning to identify and quantify highway safety problems. Grant money may also be used for the one-time acquisition of technology, system upgrades, and/or equipment purchases that will be used to solve highway safety problems where a demonstrated need exists.

Depending on the type of project, funding may be considered for one, two, or at a maximum of three years. Letters of Intent for successful projects in their second or third year normally receive priority. Consideration is then given to new applicants that **show the greatest potential for injury or fatality reduction or system improvement.**

Highway safety projects typically require the grantee agency provide a portion of the funding for the project, called matching funds. In first year projects, grant money will generally reimburse 75 percent of the total project costs, in the second year 50 percent, and in the third year 25 percent. Matching funds can be in the form of agency funds or resources to support the proposed project. Highway safety programs are "seed money" programs, and agencies are expected to assume the full cost of programs and provide program continuation at the conclusion of the grant funding. **Agencies pay 100 percent of the project costs up-front as accrued, and then request reimbursement monthly or quarterly in the amount of the approved federal share.**

**Highway safety funds, by law, cannot be used for highway construction, maintenance, or design. Requests for grant funds are not appropriate for projects such as safety barriers, turning lanes, traffic signals, and pavement/crosswalk markings. Additionally, funds cannot be used for facility construction or purchase of office furniture. Because of limited funding, the OHS does not fund the purchase of vehicles.**

#### FOCUS AREA PROJECT EXAMPLES

**Safety Restraint:** The overall goal of the Safety Restraint Program is to reduce deaths and injuries from motor vehicle crashes by increasing the proper use of safety restraints, booster seats, and child safety seats. Projects may include a combination of safety restraint law enforcement, public awareness programs, purchase of traffic enforcement equipment, and creative education activities. Projects can include adult, teen, and/or child safety restraint use education as a program emphasis, as well as funding to start or to improve a local child safety seat distribution program. We encourage jurisdictions with these projects to work closely with their local media to bring visibility to their activities to increase program effectiveness.

**Impaired Driving:** The goal of this program area is to remove alcohol and drug-impaired drivers from the roads and reduce recidivism. A project may include establishing DUI Courts, DUI probation positions, or enforcement combined with public information outreach activities. We encourage jurisdictions with these projects to work closely with their local media to "advertise" their enforcement activities and inform their community about highway safety. This program area can also fund alcohol breath testing equipment, training for judges, prosecutors, probation officers, and education programs like alcohol server training, designated driver awareness, underage alcohol consumption, outreach and enforcement. The OHS is searching for creative programs that could reduce impaired driving in your community. All grants will also include seat belt usage emphasis/enforcement to reduce the injuries and deaths resulting from impaired driving crashes.

**Aggressive Driving:** The goal of this program area is to reduce the incidence of aggressive driving behaviors, such as speeding, failing to yield, following too close, or disregarding signs or signals. The goal is accomplished by enforcing and encouraging compliance with traffic laws through the development and implementation of Selective Traffic Enforcement Programs (STEP), Accident Reduction Teams, model programs to address aggressive driver behavior, and other similar projects which usually combine effective law enforcement and public awareness activities. All grants will also include seat belt usage emphasis/enforcement to reduce the injuries and deaths resulting from aggressive driving crashes.

**Youthful Drivers:** Funding is provided to reduce the number of fatal and injury crashes by 15-19 year old drivers. Emphasis is placed on prevention through education and enforcement activities. Grant funding is directed toward youthful drivers and pre-teen drivers, grades K-12. Agencies are encouraged to work with local teen populations such as community service for impaired driving offenses, student governments, and other student organizations dedicated to traffic safety. Proposed projects will create a comprehensive program to change teen driving behaviors. The OHS urges agencies to think creatively and work closely with the OHS when developing a youth program.

**Crash Response (EMS):** The goal of this program area is to enhance appropriate, timely, and safe response to crashes and to reduce the time that it takes first responders to remove injured crash victims from the crash site and transport them to advanced medical treatment. Funding priorities for this area are for the purchase of extrication equipment and/or educational opportunities.

**Vulnerable Users:** The overall goal of this program is to reduce roadway fatalities and injuries by reducing bicycle, pedestrian, and/or mature driver crashes through education, equipment, and providing direction and support for local communities. Emphasis is on public awareness materials designed to reach all age groups.

**Other:** This category includes all other potential focus areas such as motorcycle, commercial vehicles, etc. The goal of any project in this category must be to reduce roadway fatalities and injuries in Idaho.

**Electronic Citation:** Section 408 funding is available for improving timeliness, accuracy, completeness, uniformity, integration and accessibility of traffic safety data, and to demonstrate improvement in an agency's traffic records system for measurement-driven data. A separate 2-page Letter of Intent is provided for the application to fund electronic citation equipment. Complete and submit both pages to be considered for the limited funding available. Grants may be available prior to October 1, 2010.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

1. Grant awards can only be made to local and state governmental entities, and non-profit organizations.
2. There must be a data driven highway safety problem. Grant requests will be evaluated based on crash data.
3. Agencies must have a safety restraint use policy in place prior to the start of grant funding.
4. Law enforcement agencies must demonstrate that they are enforcing the safety restraint laws.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Interested agencies must complete a Letter of Intent and have it postmarked no later than February 19, 2010. Faxed or e-mailed Letters of Intent must be received no later than 11:59 PM MST (before Midnight) on February 19, 2010. Electronic versions of our forms can be found by going to our website at <http://itd.idaho.gov/ohs/programs.htm>. Contact the Office of Highway Safety with any questions. Proposals may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to:

Idaho Transportation Department Office of Highway Safety  
PO Box 7129, Boise, Idaho 83707-1129  
**Fax:** (208) 334-4430 **Phone:** (208) 334-8100  
[ohsgrants@itd.idaho.gov](mailto:ohsgrants@itd.idaho.gov)