

The County of Yuba

Health and Human Services Department



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jennifer Vasquez, Director
Melissa Shaw, Deputy Director
Health and Human Services Department

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution authorizing the Director to enter into agreement with the State of California - Office of Traffic Safety for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program grant

DATE: November 28, 2023

NUMBER: 576/2023

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the Resolution of the Board:

1. Authorizing the Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) Director to enter into agreement with the State of California – Office of Traffic Safety for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program grant for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024; and
2. Authorizing the HHSD Director to: execute, subject to review and approval of County Counsel, all documents as required by the grant; execute amendments, including but not limited to amendments for additional or lesser funding; and accept, transfer and administer the grant funds and any subsequent funds awarded.

Background:

The State of California – Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) has made grant funds available to support pedestrian and bicycle safety measures. Pedestrian and bicycle safety remains an important traffic safety issue in an ever-changing transportation landscape that accommodates all types of road users. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, bicycle trips account for only 1% of all trips in the United States. However, bicyclists account for over 2% of people who die in a crash involving a motor vehicle on our nation's roads. According to the Governors Highway Safety Association, pedestrian deaths are increasing faster than other traffic fatalities with pedestrian deaths rising 77% between 2010 – 2021 compared to a 25% rise in all other traffic-related fatalities.

Discussion:

Yuba County continues to experience pedestrian injuries and fatalities as a result of motor vehicle incidents. In 2020, Yuba County was ranked the 10th riskiest county in California for pedestrian

involved crashes and ranked as the 19th highest for pedestrians under the age of 15 being injured or killed due to accidents involving vehicles. In 2019, there were 20 injured and one fatality in Yuba County. In 2020, there were 19 injured and one fatality, and in 2021, there were 25 injured and four fatalities. These high per capita pedestrian crash injuries and fatalities can be attributed to distracted driving and walking, and not observing the rules of the road.

In 2020, Yuba County was ranked number 48 out of all 58 counties for bicycle crashes overall in California, but 8th highest for bicycle crashes of children under the age of 15. In an observational survey conducted in 2021 by Yuba County HHSD staff, only 36.5% of children under the age of 18 on bikes, scooters, and skateboards were wearing helmets. These bicycle crash injuries and fatalities can be attributed to lack of bike lanes in many unincorporated areas, non-use of safety equipment, and both vehicles and bicyclists not following the rules of the road.

To help address these concerns, the Yuba County Health and Human Services Department applied for and was awarded \$74,407 in grant funds. These funds will be used to provide pedestrian and bicycle safety related activities such as providing classroom education, conducting bicycle safety activities, participating in community events, conducting presentations, and distributing safety equipment.

The utilization of funds from the Office of Traffic Safety supports the County's Strategic Plan in the areas of (1) County Services with activities that promote Strategic Opportunities in Safety and in Social Services, and (2) Communication, Engagement and Outreach with activities that promote Strategic Opportunity in Community of Participation. It will assist in meeting a milestone specifically related to County Services: enhance outreach and education about programs and services available; and a milestone specifically related to Communication, Engagement and Outreach: establish lines of communication and connection with all sectors of our community.

Committee Action:

The Human Services Committee was by-passed due to the routine nature of this request.

Fiscal Impact:

Budget

- Board Approved FY 2023-24 Budget Appropriations

Total Projected Cost

- \$74,407

Source of Funds

- Non-General Fund: \$74,407 Federal Funding
 - Federal Highway Safety Grant Funds through the State of California – Office of Traffic Safety for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program

Attachments:

576/2023 Resolution for Office of Traffic Safety - Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program grant