



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT AIMS TO REDUCE DUI OFFENSES AMONG YOUNG DRIVERS**

**SHASTA COUNTY** – Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is proud to announce it has been awarded \$253,000 from the California Office of Traffic Safety to reduce motor vehicle-related deaths and injuries. This safe driving grant will fund education focused on preventing drug and alcohol-impaired driving among young drivers. It will also include education aimed at distracted driving prevention and pedestrian safety.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15 to 18-year-olds in the United States – ahead of all other types of injury, disease or violence. Nationwide, there were 2,042 people killed in crashes involving a teen driver in 2019. Office of Traffic Safety Rankings for 2018 indicate that out of 58 counties in California, Shasta County ranked 38<sup>th</sup> in the number of alcohol-involved collisions and 24<sup>th</sup> highest in drivers under the age of 21 who had alcohol in their system.

HHSA will provide teen and young adult traffic safety education through distribution of educational materials, educational campaigns, and social media messaging that focuses on driving safety and impaired driving prevention. Grant activities will include a safe rides and DUI prevention campaign among bars to help young adults consider the consequences of impaired driving.

To find local resources and information about traffic safety, visit [www.facebook.com/drivesobershasta](http://www.facebook.com/drivesobershasta). For more information on talking to teens about impaired driving, visit [www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/teen-driving](http://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/teen-driving). Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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