



Shasta County
**Health & Human
Services Agency**

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 DUIS AMONG YOUNG DRIVERS

SHASTA COUNTY – Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is proud to announce it has been awarded a \$340,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety to reduce motor vehicle-related deaths and injuries. The safe driving grant will fund education focused on preventing alcohol and drug-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 3,255 teen drivers involved in fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2017. Novice teen drivers are twice as likely as adult drivers to be in a fatal crash. Office of Traffic Safety Rankings for 2016 indicate that out of 58 counties in California, Shasta County ranked 14th in the number of alcohol-involved collisions.

HHSA will continue to partner with the Injury Prevention Coalition of Shasta County and Shasta County Chemical People, Inc. to provide teen traffic safety education and conduct school-based educational activities that focus on youth driving safety and impaired driving prevention. Grant activities will include traffic safety campaigns, school assemblies, social media messaging, and activities to help young people consider the consequences of unsafe driving.

To find local resources and information about youth traffic safety, visit www.facebook.com/DriveSoberShasta. For more information on talking to teens about impaired driving, visit 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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