

NEWS RELEASE



313 North Figueroa Street, Room 806 | Los Angeles, CA 90012 | (213) 240-8144 | media@ph.lacounty.gov

For Immediate Release:

July 9, 2025

Los Angeles County Strengthens Traffic Safety Efforts with Over \$1.4 Million in Grant Support from the California Office of Traffic Safety

State Funding Makes Essential Traffic Safety Programs Possible in LA County Communities

As part of its ongoing commitment to eliminating traffic-related injuries and fatalities, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has been awarded over \$1.4 million in funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to advance a comprehensive suite of traffic safety programs. These initiatives support the County's Vision Zero Action Plan and safety goals focusing on vulnerable road users, high-risk driving behaviors, and youth and family safety with a priority on community engagement and education.

Funding will support efforts to:

- Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety in East Los Angeles, Florence-Firestone, Westmont/ West Athens, and Willowbrook/ West Rancho Dominguez through community walks, bike rodeos, education campaigns, and outreach events.
- Engage older adults in traffic safety through the Safer Streets for Seniors initiatives to reduce injuries and fatalities among residents 55 and older.
- Address reckless driving and motorcycle crashes in high-risk rural areas through targeted outreach and safety education campaigns for riders.
- Raise awareness about the dangers of street racing, sideshows, and takeovers through a youth-focused educational program designed to prevent participation and reduce harm.
- Increase access to child passenger safety services by operating three permanent car seat fitting stations in Lancaster, Van Nuys, and Whittier.
- Train more than 40 new Child Passenger Safety Technicians as well as provide regional training opportunities to enhance local capacity for year-round car seat checks and education.
- Expand distracted driving education for teens and parents through bilingual workshops and programs held at libraries and schools.
- Reach families with younger children through programs like Smarty Pants Storytime and Dance, Play & Explore, reinforcing safe driving messages from an early age.

"Without this critical funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety, it would not be possible to fully address the priorities of LA County and the Board of Supervisors," said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed., Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. "Reducing pedestrian injuries, improving child passenger safety, decreasing distracted driving, and addressing dangerous behaviors like

street racing and unsafe motorcycle riding are essential public health responsibilities. These programs provide life-saving services for our communities but lack consistent local funding. Support from OTS allows us to continue this vital work and protect the residents who need it most.”

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 county residents.

These grant-funded efforts will run through September 30th, 2025. 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 of more than 5,000 employees and has an annual budget of \$1.3 billion.

#

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