

**Motor Vehicle Administration  
Maryland Highway Safety Office  
FFY 2016 GRANT APPLICATION OVERVIEW**

**Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to provide potential grantees with information on the Maryland Highway Safety Office's (MHSO) grant application process. This information is provided to assist the applicant agency in developing a highway safety project. Grants awarded for the FFY 2016 will begin on October 1, 2015 and will end on September 30, 2016.

**The MHSO's Highway Safety Program**

The MHSO administers grant-funded programs that address priority areas such as impaired driving prevention, occupant protection, aggressive driving prevention, distracted driving prevention and the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, younger drivers, and older drivers. In addition, grant funds can be awarded toward projects that help improve the quality of traffic safety data.

**Problem Statement**

Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death in Maryland, eclipsing homicides in virtually every jurisdiction. On average, there are more than 92,000 motor vehicle crashes in Maryland each year, resulting in an average of 500 deaths and 44,000 injuries.

**Grant Program Eligibility**

State and local government agencies, law enforcement agencies, non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education and hospitals are eligible for funding. Funding is provided on a competitive basis to projects that are data driven, and to those that implement evidence-based countermeasures with goals of eliminating motor vehicle crashes and the associated injuries and fatalities. Collaboration with the "four Es of highway safety" education, enforcement, engineering and emergency medical services is encouraged

**How to Apply**

The application must be completed and submitted electronically through the MHSO's online grants system, SHARP. This site is used to apply for and manage grant-funded projects. There are two types of grant applications available, one specifically for law enforcement and another for general applications. The deadline for both the general and the law enforcement applications is February 27, 2015.

## **Description of High Visibility Enforcement (HVE)**

High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) is a universal traffic safety approach designed to create deterrence and change unlawful traffic behaviors. HVE combines highly visible and proactive law enforcement targeting a specific safety issue. Law enforcement efforts are combined with visibility elements and a publicity strategy to educate the public and promote voluntary compliance with the law. Law enforcement agencies should develop sustained HVE plans across all areas of traffic safety using the HVE approach: Enforcement, Visibility, and Publicity.

## **Description of the MHSO's Available Law Enforcement Funding Opportunities**

### **Aggressive Driving**

Funding will be provided for officer overtime for aggressive driving enforcement patrols. Examples of aggressive driving infractions include speeding, red light running, failure to yield, DUI, reckless driving, following too close, improper turn and other hazardous violations. Operations must be data driven and targeted in areas of greatest need as determined by crash data. Highway safety funds can be used to implement a year-round aggressive driving enforcement strategy and to participate in the MHSO's Smooth Operator Program, a high-visibility enforcement effort with four waves beginning in May and running through September. In addition to officer overtime, funds may be used for training and equipment if a need is demonstrated and funds are available. Educational materials may be available through the MHSO.

### **Distracted Driving**

Funding will be provided for officer overtime for distracted driving enforcement patrols. These funds are designed to decrease distracted driving violations by enforcing Maryland's hand held cell phone and texting laws. Operations must be data driven, with target locations being based on crash and citation data. Funds will be available for officer overtime and training if a need is demonstrated and funds are available. Educational materials may be available through the MHSO.

### **Impaired Driving**

Funded projects will target high crash locations and corridors where there has been a high incidence of DUI related crashes and arrests. Evidence-based enforcement operations include saturation patrols (consisting of two or more officers patrolling high-crash areas during peak times), sobriety checkpoints, and underage drinking enforcement that includes, but is not limited to, compliance checks and party patrols. Funds will be available for officer overtime, training, and equipment if a need is demonstrated and funds are available. Educational materials may be available through the MHSO.

### **Occupant Protection**

Funding will be provided to projects that are evaluated to best increase seat belt use and promote the proper use of child safety seats. These projects include enforcement activities to increase nighttime seatbelt use. Operations must be data driven and target locations based on crash and citation data. Funding will be provided for officer overtime during nighttime hours (9:00 pm -5:00 am) training, and equipment if a need is demonstrated and funds are available. Educational materials may be available through the MHSO.

### **Pedestrian/Bicycle**

Funding will be provided to projects designed to improve pedestrian/bicyclist safety, and to those projects that increase motorist awareness through enforcement. High-priority locations selected through a data driven approach will be utilized. Funding will be provided for officer overtime, training, and equipment if a need is demonstrated and funds are available. Educational materials may be available through the MHSO.

### **Description of the MHSO's Available General Funding Opportunities**

General grant applicants are encouraged to develop proposals for outreach initiatives that focus on Maryland's highway safety priorities: impaired driving prevention distracted driving prevention, aggressive driving prevention, occupant protection, and the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, young and older drivers. Applicants interested in submitting proposals that focus on police traffic services and traffic records should also apply through the general grant application. Applicants should be sure the proposed project addresses an identified highway safety priority and includes strategies, actions steps and measurable outcomes. Questions to help guide pre-planning prior to contacting a technical advisor at the MHSO and completing a grant application are provided below:

- What is the highway safety problem you intend to address?
- Who is your target population? Is this a local or statewide effort?
- What is the proposed solution you will implement to resolve the highway safety problem?
- How will you evaluate the program?

Information on previously funded projects can be found in the MHSO's Annual Report located on MHSO's website at

<http://www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/docs/mhsoannualreport2014.pdf>

### **Additional Resources Available**

**In preparation for applying for a grant, applicants are encouraged to review the following documents for information:**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Countermeasures That Work  
<http://www.ghsa.org/html/publications/countermeasures.html>

The Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan <http://mhso.mva.maryland.gov/files/md-state-highway-safety-plan.pdf>

**The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Highway Safety Grants Management Manual**  
[http://www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/whatsup/TEA21/GrantMan/HTML/00\\_Manl\\_Contents1\\_01.html](http://www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/whatsup/TEA21/GrantMan/HTML/00_Manl_Contents1_01.html)

**Technical and Programmatic Assistance Is Available to You:**

For potential grant projects specific to a jurisdiction (county), you will be directed to work with the MHSO's Regional Traffic Safety Program for your area. Please contact the MHSO's main office at 410-787-4050 for the proper contact information.

For potential statewide grant projects or pilot initiatives, please contact the MHSO's main office at 410-787-4050.