

Seat Belt Task Force Grant 2021

Grant Type: Grant Continuation

Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Safety

Grant Period: October 1, 2020—September 30, 2021

Award Amount: \$124,500 (\$99,600 — Grantor share; \$24,900 — Local match)

Match Required: \$24,900

Fiscal Agent: Milwaukee Police Department

MPD Sub-Awardee: N/A

Allocation Purpose: Funds will be allocated to assist the deployment of officers who will be responsible for highly visible traffic enforcement efforts.

Partners: Milwaukee Police Department (\$53,000 — Grantor share; \$13,250 — Local match), UW-Milwaukee Police Department (\$16,600 — Grantor share; \$4,150 — Local match), Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office (\$30,000 — Grantor share; \$7,500 — Local match).

Research & Evaluation: N/A

Programmatic Summary & Goals

The objectives for this operational plan are to decrease the incidence of fatalities and serious injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes by enforcing seat belt usage in Milwaukee. Through high visibility enforcement, Milwaukee Police Department — in partnership with the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Police Department — will enforce all occupant restraint laws to encourage seat belt use. As part of this grant, the Milwaukee Police Department will adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards impaired driving and unrestrained occupants during all motor vehicle stops; MPD will also maintain or exceed historical activity levels (rate of traffic stops during deployments) during grant-funded activity.

Data Summary:

Preliminary 2019 data indicates that 35.6% of persons killed and 20.0% of persons sustaining incapacitating injuries in Wisconsin crashes were NOT wearing seat belts. Many of these people were ejected from their vehicle. Statewide seat belt use was 90.2% in 2019; however, Wisconsin seat belt use still remains about three tenths of one percent lower than the national average. It was estimated that seat belt use by motor vehicle occupants in Wisconsin prevents more than 293 traffic related fatalities and more than 8,000 serious injuries annually.