

Grant Award Summary

COUNCIL FILE NO: 251830

2026 Seat Belt Enforcement Grant

Grant Type: New Grant

Grantor: Wisconsin Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Safety

Grant Period: December 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026

Award Amount: \$85,007.70 (\$68,006.16 from Grantor, \$17,001.54 in-kind contribution)

Match Required: \$17,001.54 (in-kind Salary/Fringe Benefits)

Fiscal Agent: Milwaukee Police Department (MPD)

Allocation Purpose: The 2026 Seat Belt Enforcement Grant will fund deployment of multi-jurisdictional sworn officers to conduct an enforcement campaign targeted at motor vehicle occupant restraint violations.

Partners: The multi-jurisdictional Traffic Safety Task Force includes the Milwaukee Police Department, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Police Department, and Marquette University Police Department. The award overtime breakdown includes \$33,000 MPD, \$25,000 MCSO, \$5,000 UWM, and \$5,000 Marquette University. The Marquette Police Department is a new member of the Task Force for 2026.

Program Goal: The goal of the Traffic Safety Task Force is to decrease traffic crashes and obtain voluntary compliance with traffic regulations to reduce fatalities and serious injury collisions. This grant will fund a coordinated campaign with all Task Force partners targeting enforcement action based on violations observed/detected for motor vehicle occupant restraint laws and encouraging seat belt use.

Data: In 2025, 36% of persons killed and 10.10% 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 93% in 2025 making Wisconsin's seat belt use rate higher than the national average. It has been estimated that seat belt use by motor vehicle occupants in Wisconsin prevents approximately 300 traffic related fatalities and more than 8,000 serious injuries annually. This grant will help the Traffic Safety Task Force reinforce that positive track record.