

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY SAFETY CONCEPT PAPER
Concept Paper Summary

Applicant Information

Applicant Agency:	Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Implementing Agency:	Office of the Executive Director
Concept Paper Title:	Teen Driver Safety
Priority Area for Concept Paper:	Teen Driver Safety
Amount Requested:	\$113,250.00
Type of Project:	Statewide
Type of Request:	Continuation - 2019
Previous Year's Project Number (if Continuation):	TSP200402

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Statement of the Problem:

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death for teenagers ages 15–19 in the United States, according to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). While teens made up only 4.7 percent of the driving population in Florida, they were involved in almost 12 percent of the total crashes in Florida in 2018.

Teens between the ages of 15–17 are novice drivers and are subject to Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws. In 2018, there were 16,621 Florida teen drivers (15–17) involved in crashes; a 2.6% percent decrease from 2017. For this age group, there were 30 teen driver fatalities and more than 3,700 teen drivers with injuries resulting from traffic crashes.

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Driver inexperience, risk-taking behaviors, and driver distractions are most often cited as factors in these crashes. Risky behaviors include, but are not limited to, speeding, not wearing seat belts, and driving aggressively, impaired, or drowsy. Driver distractions include smart phone use (texting, snapchatting), passengers, eating, daydreaming, etc.

According to the Governors Highway Safety Association's Teen Driver Safety web page: "Research has shown that significant reductions in deaths have been associated with GDL laws that included age requirements , a waiting period of at least three months before the intermediate stage, a restriction on nighttime driving, and 30 or more hours of supervised driving, and a restriction on carrying passengers or the number and age of passengers carried."

Both teens and their parents need to understand Florida's GDL laws, which include driving curfews by age and license type and that a parent/guardian must certify that their teen had a minimum of 50 hours of supervised driving experience prior to obtaining a driver license. However, getting this information to teens and their parents continues to be a challenge in Florida. High school driver education used to be the best method to get driver safety information to teens (and to their parents through the schools). But, driver education is no longer a graduation requirement in Florida, and with continuing budget cuts, a large number of schools have completely discontinued driver education. According to data available on the Florida Department of Education web site, less than 70,000 teens enrolled in driver education during the 2018–2019 school year, representing less than 18 percent of Florida licensed teen drivers ages 15–17 (391,855).

Due to the decrease in high school driver education, it is even more important find more ways to get driver safety information into the hands (and minds) of teens. Parents and teens also need to be aware of GDL laws, such as driving curfews and "behind-the-wheel" practice requirements. Parents play a key role in driver instruction; they need guidance in teaching their teens the rules of the road and the skills necessary to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Supporting Data:

TEEN DRIVERS IN CRASHES

AGE 2016 2017 2018

15-17* 16,124 17,065 16,621

18-20 47,467 46,851 47,067

*This age group is subject to GDL laws.

TEEN DRIVERS WITH SERIOUS BODILY INJURY RESULTING FROM CRASH

Age 2015 2016 2017 2018

15 23 15 19 22

16 88 80 82 82

17 134 139 158 148

18 284 301 279 237

19 328 344 303 271

Total 857 879 841 760

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TEEN DRIVER FATALITIES

Age 2015 2016 2017 2018

15 3 3 3 1

16 8 6 7 8

17 15 18 11 21

18 27 29 36 27

19 39 41 41 31

Total 92 97 98 88

Proposed Solution:

The Florida Department of Transportation has identified teen driver safety as an area of emphasis in the Florida Strategic Highway Safety Plan and the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) is committed to “A Safer Florida” and promoting public safety.

This project is similar, yet not identical, to some of the components in countermeasures identified in Countermeasures that Work, Chapter 6, Young Drivers, such as: 2.1 “Pre-Licensure Driver Education” and 3.1 “Parental Role in Teaching and Managing Young Drivers.” However, this chapter does not specifically address “Communications and Outreach,” as some of the other countermeasures do, such as in Chapter 4, Distracted and Drowsy Driving.

In Chapter 6, under “Strategies to Reduce Crashes Involving Young Drivers,” it states that “current research is investigating ways to integrate driver education with GDL.” This project specifically addresses Florida's GDL laws, as well as other safe driving practices, and is delivered primarily through driver education classes and teen driver safety fairs.

This initiative supports the strategies of the Teen Drivers, Distracted Driving, Impaired Driving and Speeding and Aggressive Driving emphasis areas of the Florida Strategic Highway Safety Plan which include: “Educate stakeholders about the potential safety benefits of improving Florida's Graduated Driver Licensing law to include passenger and cell phone restrictions”; “Educate parents, caregivers, and role models on the dangers of impaired driving for teen drivers including the prohibition on providing alcohol or drugs to anyone under the age of 21”; “Conduct community-based public awareness and education regarding speeding and aggressive driving”; and “Change societal attitudes about distracted driving through intensive public education activities.”

According to NHTSA, GDL has been very effective in reducing fatalities and serious injuries for teen drivers. Reaching teens during the graduated licensing stage is important to imparting an understanding of safe driving skills and behaviors, and the consequences of making poor driving decisions.

Outreach efforts funded by this subgrant will be used to inform teens and their parents about GDL laws, as well as providing safety information on topics such as impaired driving, distracted driving, speeding, and occupant protection. The Drive with CARE (Courtesy, Attention, Responsibility, Experience) outreach presentations are held primarily in counties within the top 25% of the Highway Safety Matrix, and the program distributes educational print items as the budget allows. Many outreach events also occur at outdoor safety fairs and teen driver safety weeks. Presentations and outreach events may be conducted by FLHSMV members, OPS staff, Florida Highway Patrol Public Affairs Officers, partner organizations, and Tax Collectors' staff. Targeted

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counties for this grant cycle will be Miami-Dade (2), Hillsborough (3), Pasco (5), and Pinellas (7). Funds permitting, additional counties will be served as this is a statewide program.

In order to expand the distribution of teen driver safety/GDL information, resources provided by this grant will be used to develop a Florida Parent-Teen Driver Guide, as well as tip cards on night driving restrictions and practice requirements. These materials will be distributed at Drive with CARE safety presentations in the high schools and also through Tax Collector/Driver License Service Centers. Incorporating these offices as a method of distribution is ideal because every teen must visit the Tax Collector/Driver License Service Center (with their parent/guardian) to obtain a learner or driver license credential.

Resources provided through this grant will be used to fund one part-time Other Personnel Services (OPS) position to manage performance reports, procurement, budget, reimbursements, scheduling, and outreach coordination. This person would also assist with and provide Drive with CARE presentations.

Other resources provided through the grant will include printed materials such as posters, teen/parent driving logs and teen/parent driving agreements. Various educational printed materials and digital creative files are provided to partner organizations for use and distribution during presentations, meetings, and events.

Sustainability:

The program would discontinue after the grant period due to the lack of funding for travel and print materials.

Project Objectives:

- Conduct at least 100 outreach events or presentations for partners, teens, parents of teens, and teachers.
- Reach at least 3,000 students and parents with presentations and outreach activities and through partnership opportunities.
- Conduct surveys with students/parents/teachers/partners on effectiveness of the presentations and make modifications as necessary to ensure rating of 3.5 or higher (on a scale of 1-4).
- Distribute a minimum of 75,000 Parent/Teen guides at Tax Collector/Driver License Service Center and high schools.
- Distribute a minimum of 200,000 GDL tip cards at Tax Collector/Driver License Service Center and high schools.
- Reduce teen driver involved crashes, teen driver injuries, and teen driver fatalities by 3%.

Evaluation:

1. The number of outreach events/presentations conducted compared to the number proposed (100).
2. The number of students/parents reached compared to the objective (3,000).
3. Results of surveys with students/teachers/parents/partners on effectiveness of the presentation (3.5 out of 4).
4. The number of Parent/Teen Guides distributed (75,000).
5. The number of GDL tip cards distributed (200,000).
6. The percentage of reductions in teen driver involved crashes, injuries, and fatalities compared to the objective (3%).

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BUDGET CATEGORY	TOTAL	FEDERAL FUNDING	Match	
			STATE	LOCAL
A. Personnel Services				
OPS Salary (and FICA)	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$0	\$0

BUDGET CATEGORY	TOTAL	FEDERAL FUNDING	Match	
			STATE	LOCAL
B. Contractual Services				
Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

BUDGET CATEGORY	TOTAL	FEDERAL FUNDING	Match	
			STATE	LOCAL
C. Expenses				
Travel	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$0	\$0
Print-Teen Guide	\$56,250	\$56,250	\$0	\$0
Print-GDL Tip Cards	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0
Print-Posters Contracts	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	\$0
Shipping	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$89,250	\$89,250	\$0	\$0

BUDGET CATEGORY	TOTAL	FEDERAL FUNDING	Match	
			STATE	LOCAL
D. Equipment Costing \$5,000 or More				
Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

BUDGET CATEGORY	TOTAL	FEDERAL FUNDING	Match	
			STATE	LOCAL
E. Indirect Cost:				
Subtotal				

Total Cost of Project	\$113,250	\$113,250	\$0	\$0
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