



Contact: Erin Eggen
Office of Highway Safety
(502) 330-4198
erin.eggen@ky.gov

Jonathan Greene
Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center
(304) 723-8762
j.greene@uky.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kentucky Office of Highway Safety Receives \$21,981 Grant for Teen Driver Program

Ford Motor Company and Governors Highway Safety Association fund Kentucky Checkpoints™ program

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 4, 2022) – The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s (KYTC) Office of Highway Safety (KOHS) received \$21,981 from the Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford, and the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), to improve teen driver safety throughout Kentucky.

Funding will be used for the Kentucky Checkpoints parent-teen driver program administered by the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC) and the Kentucky Safety Prevention Alignment Network (KSPAN)

“We appreciate our partners at Ford and GHSA for their recognition and support of Kentucky Checkpoints,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “These funds will help provide this life-saving program to communities most impacted by teen driver crashes, injuries and deaths.”

Kentucky Checkpoints is a free program that helps teen drivers and their parents navigate Kentucky’s Graduated Driver Licensing requirements, promotes safe driving behaviors with an emphasis on maintaining safe speeds and outlines the consequences of violating traffic laws. Additionally, parents are assisted in working with their teen to create an individualized Parent-Teen Driving Agreement. The agreement helps effectively communicate and establish driving rules and the consequences of unsafe driving behaviors.

“Educating young drivers on safe driving behaviors is a key strategy in our crash prevention efforts,” said KYTC Secretary Jim Gray. “Kentucky Checkpoints takes the extra step of involving parents in the driving process. We believe that by opening the line of communication, teens will feel supported and encouraged to make safe choices each and every time they get behind the wheel.”

According to [Teens and Speeding: Breaking the Deadly Cycle](#), a report by the Ford Motor Company Fund, there were 223 teen driver and passenger roadway fatalities in Kentucky from 2015 to 2019

“Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens, and speeding is often a significant factor,” said GHSA Executor Director Jonathan Adkins. “We must remain steadfast in our commitment to combat traffic fatalities and equip teens with the skills they need to be safe drivers.”

To implement [Kentucky Checkpoints](#), KSPAN works to recruit volunteers in high schools, health departments and other community safety-related agencies to coordinate and conduct the program in their counties. Once volunteers are identified, KSPAN provides free train-the-trainer classes, curriculum materials, localized data and technical assistance.

According to KIPRC’s Dr. Ashley Bush, all counties are eligible to receive the Kentucky Checkpoints program. However, the Ford Driving Skills grant of \$21,981 will be used to provide training and financial support for up to 15 counties with the highest teen driver-related crashes, deaths and injury-related emergency department visits.

“While the Kentucky Checkpoints program is available to anyone, this grant enables us to provide funds to selected counties to help supplement training expenses such as advertising costs, staff time, training room rental and/or travel expenses,” said Bush. “These funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so we strongly encourage anyone interested in championing the program in their area to contact us as soon as possible.”

Counties that qualify for the financial support are listed on the Kentucky Checkpoints application [here](#). For additional information, contact KSPAN Program Coordinator Steve Sparrow at Steve.Sparrow@uky.edu, view the [Checkpoints Information Sheet](#) or visit the KSPAN website at <http://www.safekentucky.org/>.

###

About GHSA

The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) is a nonprofit association representing the highway safety offices of states, territories, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. GHSA provides leadership and representation for the states and territories to improve traffic safety, influence national policy, enhance program management and promote best practices. Its members are appointed by their Governors to administer federal and state highway safety funds and implement state highway safety plans. Visit ghsa.org for more information or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Ford Motor Company Fund

As the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company, Ford Fund’s mission is to strengthen communities and help make people’s lives better. Working with dealers and nonprofit partners in more than 50 countries, Ford Fund provides access to opportunities and resources that help people reach their full potential. Since 1949, Ford Fund has invested more than \$2.1 billion in programs that support education, promote safe driving, enrich community life and encourage employee volunteering. For more information, visit www.fordfund.org or join us at @FordFund on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

About KSPAN

The Kentucky Safety and Prevention Alignment Network (KSPAN) is Kentucky Violence and Injury Prevention Program's (KVIPP) injury community implementation group that consists of public and private organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting safety and preventing injuries throughout the Commonwealth. KVIPP is funded by CDC grant NU17CE010064 and is part of the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRIC)—a unique partnership between the Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) and the University of Kentucky's College of Public Health. KIPRC serves both as an academic injury prevention research center and as a bona fide agent of DPH for statewide injury prevention and control. For more information, visit safekentucky.org or join us @KentuckySPAN .