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Lakeville Police Department Awarded Child Passenger Safety Grant

Grant Will Make Car Seats Available to Residents in Need

Lakeville, MA- The Lakeville Police Department was awarded a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Grant that will be used to purchase car seats for distribution to local families in need. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research- Highway Safety Division awarded grants totaling over \$190,000 to 58 local police and fire departments, non-profit agencies, and hospitals. Lakeville Police Department is one of over 235 car seat inspection sites in Massachusetts, with certified technicians available to ensure the correct installation of children's seats.

Nationwide, traffic crashes are a leading cause of death for children of all ages. Properly installed car and booster seats reduce the risk of death and injury to children involved in crashes, yet the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that nearly 60 percent of all car seats installations are incorrect.

State law requires all children riding in passenger motor vehicles to be in a federally approved child passenger restraint that is properly fastened and secured according to the manufacturer's instructions until they are 8 years old or over 57 inches tall. When children outgrow their booster seats, they must continue to sit in the back seat until the age of 13, always wearing a seat belt.

"This grant helps us better serve families who find it difficult to afford car and booster seats to protect their children," said Chief Alvilhiera. "We can also assist parents and caregivers with the proper installation of their child's seats. If you would like to schedule an appointment for inspection to ensure your seat is properly installed in your vehicle or for installation of a new seat, please call dispatch at 508-947-4422 for car seat technician's availability."

For a full listing of organizations awarded this grant, please visit www.mass.gov/service-details/grant-award-notifications-highway-safety-division.

For a listing of car seat inspection sites statewide, please visit www.mass.gov/carseats.