



COLUMBUS PUBLIC HEALTH – Press Release

For: ASAP

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“Columbus Public Health Receives \$122,400 in Traffic Safety Grants”

Columbus – Kathy Collins-Taylor today announced the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s (ODPS) Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO) awarded \$122,400 in federal traffic safety funding to Columbus Public Health to fund the Franklin County Safe Communities program for federal year 2010.

“Partnerships are critical to the long-term success of any safety effort and we are committed to working with local and state safety partners to address traffic safety concerns in the Columbus area”, said Dr. Teresa Long. “These funds will help ensure that we can dedicate time and personnel to these efforts to make our road safer for the community.”

Columbus Public Health has identified that raising public awareness and educating the community about the life saving importance of safety belt use, sober driving, safe walking, motorcycle safety and developing safe, responsible teen drivers impacts the welfare of all Franklin County residents. To save lives and improve the quality of life for our citizens, Columbus Public Health’s Safe Communities Program will partner with community organizations to advance innovative programs to help keep drivers safe on the road. Programs will promote safety belt use, discourage impaired driving, teach parents of teen drivers to partner with their teens to become safe, responsible drivers, provide pedestrian safety education to diverse cultural groups, supply traffic safety resources to the public and much more.

The funds are passed through OTSO from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to support the efforts of safety partners statewide and focus on local traffic safety priority areas. In the past 3 years Ohio’s roadway fatalities have decreased to near record lows. There were 1,191 fatalities on Ohio roads in 2008, down from 1,257 in 2007 and 1,239 in 2006. Columbus Public Health’s Safe Communities program is working to continue that trend in Franklin County.

Competitive grant proposals are accepted and reviewed by OTSO. The FFY 2010 competitive grant process solicited grant proposals from state agencies, non-profit organizations, colleges, universities, hospitals, political subdivisions and other interested groups within selected Ohio counties and jurisdictions (based on the number of fatal crashes). For more information about the Ohio Traffic Safety Office and statewide efforts to improve safety on Ohio’s roadways, log on to www.ohiohighwaysafetyoffice.ohio.gov/. For more information about Columbus Public Health’s Safe Communities program, contact Vedette Gavin at (614)645-6836 or visit www.fcsafecommunities.com

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