



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2023

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Driving Under the Influence Collaborative Court Grant Expanded and Extended

The Fresno County Superior Court, in partnership with the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has been awarded a one-year grant to continue operation of its comprehensive misdemeanor court program that addresses repeat offenders with second and third DUI offenses. The start of this award took place on October 1, 2023 and constituted the fourth one-year grant by the OTS allowing for the continuation of the program through September of 2024. Prior awards were granted on October 1, 2020, September 24, 2021 and October 1, 2022.

The \$550,000 grant from the OTS focuses on continuing services to high-risk, high-need individuals with second and third-time driving-under-the-influence (DUI) convictions by offering a comprehensive monitoring program that provides the guidance and help needed to reduce repeat DUI offenses. Of the many benefits of this program, increased public safety continues to be at the forefront. The completion of substance abuse treatment reduces DUI re-offenses significantly, which thereby reduces impaired driving and traffic injuries and fatalities.

In regards to the program, Judge Amy K. Guerra who presides over this calendar had this to say: "Due to the collaborative efforts of the Court, Fresno County Probation, the Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health and our justice partners, the DUI court has been extremely successful. The program's balance of supervision, accountability, and rehabilitative treatment serves to connect participants with needed services, while simultaneously supporting the goal of preventing further recidivism and limiting impaired drivers in the community."

The Court’s program continues to partner with healthcare providers, social services, and other community-based organizations, all of whom work together to administer effective courses of treatment for participants through a combination of judicial supervision and other supportive services. All participants are ordered to abstain from the use of alcohol and drugs and are monitored on a daily basis by one of several alcohol monitoring companies. They are also screened on a regular basis by treatment facilities. All findings are reported to the collaborative justice team, who address any issues with the participants and work to get them back on track.

“Intervention programs create a safer and more compassionate community,” OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. “By addressing the underlying issues associated with impaired driving, the program can successfully provide individuals facing DUI-related challenges with a path to recovery.”

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and will continue through September of 2024.



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