



## **GHSA and The National Road Safety Foundation Provide \$75,000 to Bolster State Drowsy Driving Prevention Programs**

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Grants Awarded to Georgia, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and New York

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) and The National Road Safety Foundation, Inc. (NRSF) announced the recipients of a third year of grants to help states implement innovative drowsy driving prevention campaigns. Georgia, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and New York will each receive \$15,000 in funding. Eight states applied for these grants; a panel of issue experts reviewed all applications against a number of criteria and selected the winners.

This competitive grant program equips states with resources needed to tackle the challenge of drowsy driving, with programs incorporating best practices identified by GHSA and NRSF. Programs in 2019 will utilize public awareness campaigns, virtual reality and innovative partnerships to engage key audiences.

Planned state activities include the following:

Georgia – The Georgia Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) will partner with the Department of Agriculture to raise awareness of drowsy driving through a presence at the Georgia National Fair. GOHS also will produce additional materials to be distributed at other events and share NRSF drowsy driving materials across a variety of media platforms.

Iowa – The Iowa Departments of Transportation, Public Safety, Public Health and the Iowa Insurance Division will expand on Zero Fatalities Iowa's "Don't let the Sleepyzzz get you" campaign from 2017 using virtual reality. Partnering with Iowa State University, Zero Fatalities Iowa will produce a 60 to 90 second virtual reality experience affirming the message that drowsy driving is not a game.

Minnesota – The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) will purchase wearable sleep measurement tools and software to assist research being conducted by the University of Minnesota's HumanFIRST Laboratory on the impact of sleep patterns and prolonged wakefulness on driver safety, working to improve understanding and detection of driver fatigue nationwide.

Nebraska – The Nebraska Department of Transportation, Highway Safety Office (NDOT-HSO) will conduct a drowsy driving injury prevention initiative, focusing on education for young adult and senior drivers. The initiative includes four coordinated events covering seven counties, providing Drowsy Driving workshops to educate community partners about traffic safety concerns and address drowsy driving injury prevention.

New York – The New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (NYSGTSC) will partner with the New York State Partnership against Drowsy Driving and Stony Brook University's School of Health Technology and Management to educate law enforcement personnel about the dangers of drowsy driving through a webinar.

"Drowsy driving continues to be a chronic and often overlooked issue on our nation's roadways," said GHSA Executive Director Jonathan Adkins. "We are excited to continue this partnership with the National Road Safety Foundation to support innovative state approaches addressing this problem."

Michelle Anderson, Director of Operations for NRSF, noted, "This year's grantees were chosen from an outstanding group of applicants dedicated to taking action against fatigued driving. NRSF is glad to provide this funding to support states as they work to keep drowsy drivers off the road."

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#### 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. Contact GHSA at 202-789-0942 or visit [www.ghsa.org](http://www.ghsa.org). Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GHSAHQ](https://www.facebook.com/GHSAHQ) or follow us on Twitter @GHSAHQ.

#### About The National Road Safety Foundation

The National Road Safety Foundation, Inc. (NRSF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing deaths and injuries on our nation's roads by promoting safe driving awareness and lifelong education. NRSF produces FREE traffic safety programs on distracted driving, speed and aggression, impaired driving, drowsy driving, driving skills, pedestrian safety and a host of other safety issues. NRSF also sponsors contests to engage teens in promoting safe driving to their peers and in their communities. For more information or to download free programs, visit [www.nrsf.org](http://www.nrsf.org) or [www.teenlane.org](http://www.teenlane.org).