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SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES AWARDED OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT FOR CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Stockton, CA (November 13, 2019) – San Joaquin County Public Health Services announced today that they have been awarded a \$90,000 grant by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to fund programs that educate parents and guardians on child passenger safety. The grant is for a one-year period from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

Grant funding will be used for a variety of activities to promote the proper use of child safety seats including:

- car seat checkup events and one-on-one appointments to inspect car seats;
- child safety seat education classes informing parents on using and properly installing the right car seat based on a child’s height and weight;
- Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) training, and CPST certification courses;
- surveys on car and booster seat compliance rates; and,
- community events and fairs to increase awareness about child passenger safety.

“Children should be as safe as possible when traveling in a car,” OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. “Funding for child passenger safety education and training allows our partners to make sure children are in the right car seat that is being used correctly.”

Car crashes remain the leading cause of death for children 13 and under. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 46% of car seats are not used properly.

“If you’re not sure your car seat is installed correctly, or if you have questions about what kind of seat is right for your child, Public Health Services has bi-lingual NHTSA- certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians who can help,” advises Dr. Kismet Baldwin, San Joaquin County Public Health Officer. Car seat check-up appointments can be scheduled by calling 209-468-8914.

Funding for this child passenger safety program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.