

National Motorcycle Safety Grant Awardees Announced

Washington DC

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The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) announced the 2007 list of states that will be receiving motorcycle safety grant awards. All of the states that will be receiving the dedicated funds received at least \$100,000. The program will outlay a total of \$6 million to 47 states and Puerto Rico. That's an increase over the 44 states and the island territory that received the funds last year.

"The increase in states applying for and receiving these funds highlights what riders have known for years: quality rider education and awareness campaigns work," said Jeff Hennie, Vice President of Government Relations for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF). He added "The wild success of this program ensures that it will continue to be a key component of the motorcycle safety landscape."

The grant program, also known as the "2010 Funds" after the section where it can be found in the most recent SAFETEA-LU highway bill (PL 109-59), was an idea born out of the motorcyclists' rights community. This important legislation was drafted and lobbied for by the MRF and supporting State Motorcyclists' Rights Organizations (SMROs).

Now some marching orders -- it is your job as stakeholders in the motorcycle safety community to watchdog your governor's highway safety rep to see that the funds are used wisely and appropriately. It is important to note that the US Congress wrote the legislation to direct the use of the funds to ONLY go toward rider education or motorcycle safety awareness programs. The money is not for impaired riding campaigns (there is a separate set of 402 funds available for those programs) and it is not for personal protective equipment enforcement or any other inappropriate spending. The legislation is air tight and the agreement that the states enter into when they accept the funds is iron clad -- use these funds to implement or expand rider education and motorcycle awareness campaigns and that's it. Should you become aware of any mischief when it comes to the 2010 funds in your state, please contact the MRF Washington DC headquarters.

The legislation also makes these funds available to not-for-profit organizations incorporated in your state through your governor's highway safety representative. The law does not command your state government to make the 2010 funds available to not-for-profits, but simply says they can if they choose. Your next job is to make a strong argument with your state government to turn over some of the funds to your SMRO to fund your rider education or motorcycle awareness programs.

The full list of awardees along with the amounts received is below. Arkansas, Kansas and Vermont are new to the 2010 grant program this year. States either not applying for or not qualifying for the funds this year are Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina.

STATE FY 2007 Section 2010 Grant

ALASKA \$ 100,000
ARIZONA \$ 102,607
ARKANSAS \$ 100,000
CALIFORNIA \$ 365,542
COLORADO \$ 101,815
CONNECTICUT \$ 100,000
DELAWARE \$ 100,000
FLORIDA \$ 205,733
GEORGIA \$ 140,234
HAWAII \$ 100,000
IDAHO \$ 100,000
ILLINOIS \$ 180,184
INDIANA \$ 118,289
IOWA \$ 100,000
KANSAS \$ 100,000
KENTUCKY \$ 100,000
LOUISIANA \$ 100,000
MAINE \$ 100,000
MARYLAND \$ 100,000
MASSACHUSETTS \$ 108,810
MICHIGAN \$ 156,129
MINNESOTA \$ 116,293
MISSOURI \$ 120,344
MONTANA \$ 100,000
NEBRASKA \$ 100,000
NEVADA \$ 100,000
NEW HAMPSHIRE \$ 100,000
NEW JERSEY \$ 126,221
NEW MEXICO \$ 100,000
NEW YORK \$ 229,882
NORTH CAROLINA \$ 136,206
NORTH DAKOTA \$ 100,000
OHIO \$ 167,043
OKLAHOMA \$ 100,090
OREGON \$ 100,000
PENNSYLVANIA \$ 175,342
PUERTO RICO \$ 100,000
RHODE ISLAND \$ 100,000
SOUTH DAKOTA \$ 100,000
TENNESSEE \$ 113,809
TEXAS \$ 283,221
UTAH \$ 100,000
VERMONT \$ 100,000
VIRGINIA \$ 121,987
WASHINGTON \$ 114,149
WEST VIRGINIA \$ 100,000
WISCONSIN \$ 116,070
WYOMING \$ 100,000
TOTAL \$ 6,000,000