

OHSP debuts grant solicitation process

Online process will help reduce the barriers to federal grant funding for traffic safety projects

The Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) will have an open grant project solicitation process for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 (October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024).

The main goals of this change are to reduce barriers to federal grant funding for behavioral traffic safety projects and to be more equitable by working with local communities that may not have been funded in the past.

As part of this project, the OHSP developed a new web page with resources and information specific to applying for grant project proposals: www.michigan.gov/OHSPgrants.

The website includes traffic crash data, seat belt use data, guidelines for how to submit a proposal, project requirements, resources, and OHSP contact information.

The process to apply for a traffic safety grant will be significantly different in FY2024.

Whether agencies are a grantee this year or not, this information pertains to everyone.

Now, with an open grant solicitation process, agencies will be able to examine crash data to identify their most significant traffic safety issue(s). Based on this data—coupled with the knowledge of the territory—agencies will send a proposal detailing what activities would most impact the problem, as well as when and how they will be conducted.

The proposal must clearly show why the funds are needed. Crash data, available on the website, will be the most important factor, and you can document demographic issues that impact

motor vehicle crashes and/or crash survival in your area.

The OHSP will utilize a two-tier annual grant process: 1) Grant Project Proposal and 2) Grant Application. All documents are completed in the OHSP online grant system—MGX.

With the transition to this new process for FY2024, the OHSP will host online workshops to provide more information:

- Monday, January 23, 2023, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. ET
- [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Thursday, February 2, 2023, from 10 a.m. to noon ET
- [Click here to join the meeting](#)

NOTE: The Microsoft Teams meetings are limited to 250 participants. If you are not able to join, it may be because the session is full. The sessions will be recorded and posted online.

Proposals for grant projects will open in MGX on February 1, 2023, and close on March 31, 2023.

Information completed on approved proposals will automatically move into the grant application in MGX between July 1, 2023, and August 4, 2023.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- State of Michigan agencies.
- 501(c)3 Non-profit and not for profit organizations.
- Local, city/county municipal government entities.
- Publicly funded universities, colleges, and secondary schools.
- Federally recognized tribal governments.

New federal data underscores urgency of impaired-driving problem

By the Governors Highway Safety Association
WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) has joined forces with federal, state and private-sector partners to encourage people who consume alcohol or other impairing substances to make the safer choice and leave the driving to someone who is sober.

The initiative is critical as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently announced findings of a new study of trauma center data that examined the pervasiveness of alcohol and drug use in serious and fatal crashes involving drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

According to the study, 56 percent of

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**Jonathan Adkins,
GHSA Executive Director**

seriously or fatally injured road users tested positive for alcohol or some type of impairing substance, with cannabis (25 percent) being the most prevalent. In addition, two or more drugs were found in 18 percent of serious injury cases and 32 percent of the fatalities.

To address the problem, NHTSA highlighted the coordinated efforts to

combat alcohol- and drug-impaired driving throughout the year. Over the past holiday season, GHSA partnered with Lyft and the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility (Responsibility.org) to provide grants to State Highway Safety Offices (SHSOs) to support alternative transportation options for alcohol- and drug-impaired revelers.

“The uptick in multi-substance impaired driving is not only troubling, but also frustrating because it is preventable,” said GHSA Executive Director Jonathan Adkins. “That’s why GHSA remains committed to working with our state and organizational partners to support

Website provides resources for aging drivers and their families

By the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute

In Michigan, drivers aged 65 and older represent the fastest-growing segment of the state's population. As we age, we experience changes that can affect the way we drive. But individuals do not have to compromise their independence or mobility since there are many smart options available for aging drivers.

Safe Drivers Smart Options (SDSO) is a statewide strategy to support the safe transportation of Michigan's aging adults. An important part of this strategy was the development and launch of an award-winning website, developed through a public/private partnership of state agencies and academia, all with one goal in mind—lifelong mobility.



The website www.michigan.gov/agingdriver is rich with information and resources for:

- Aging adults who currently drive, providing support for as long as they are able to do so safely.
- Assisting with the transition from driving to non-driving, or as we put it, “retirement from driving.”
- Community-based mobility options for those who have retired from driving, ensuring lifelong mobility.

The *SDSO* website is designed to provide information, raise awareness, and provide resources for key stakeholders who are committed to supporting lifelong mobility.

For aging drivers

- Keeping you driving safely as you age.
- Helping you consider your driving retirement.
- Providing resources and recommendations to organizations and community resources to assist you in your driving retirement.
- Staying active and mobile in your driving retirement.

For family and friends

- Beginning the conversation about your friend's/family's plans for mobility.
- Keeping your aging driver driving safely.
- Assisting your aging driver during and after their decision to retire from driving.
- Helping your aging driver stay active in their driving retirement.
- Organizations and resources who work with aging drivers.

For health care professionals

- *Clinician's Guide to Assessing and Counseling Older Drivers*—This guide helps assist physicians and other medical professionals in evaluating the ability of their older patients to operate motor vehicles safely as part of their everyday activities.
- Disability license plates—Information and links about the eligibility requirements for Michigan disability license plates and both permanent and temporary disability parking placards.



The website www.michigan.gov/agingdriver provides a wealth of information and resources for aging drivers and their families, as well as health care professions.

- Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists—Provides fact sheets on arthritis, aging, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, strokes and vision.

Resources for ensuring lifelong mobility, including:

- Supplemental Transportation Programs (STPs) for Seniors—This report summarizes an STP study analyzing the effectiveness of the community-based transportation programs that complement or supplement existing services. STPs provide needed services that public transit systems and paratransit are not able to provide.
- Drive Well Toolkit—This toolkit is for people working directly with aging adults and provides information about the issues related to aging drivers and later-life independence and mobility, how to plan and implement public information events, and evaluate the effectiveness of older-driver programs.

Driver evaluation referrals

- Michigan's driver license requirements—All motorists must have a valid driver license to drive on Michigan's public roads.
- Driving Rehabilitation Agencies and Resources—This includes a list of agencies that provide specialized services related to driving rehabilitation.
- Referring a driver for a driver reexamination—The steps for referring an individual to the Michigan Department of State for a driver reexamination are explained at this site, including how the reexamination is administered and what possible outcomes might result.
- Driver assessment reexamination process—Connects the user to the Secretary of State's website and outlines the process used to reexamine an individual's safe-driving abilities and the physical, mental, and vision standards.

How to be an effective and credible witness in an OWI case

By Kinga Canike and Ken Stecker
Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan

Testifying in court can be a stressful experience, whether it is your first time or twentieth.

There are many things about going to court that can make it a demanding situation, including not having an opportunity to prepare with the prosecutor beforehand, dealing with aggressive defense attorneys, and having to wait in the witness room for hours only to be told to come back the next day. These factors may be out of your control, but what you can control is how well you know your case and how you handle yourself on the stand.

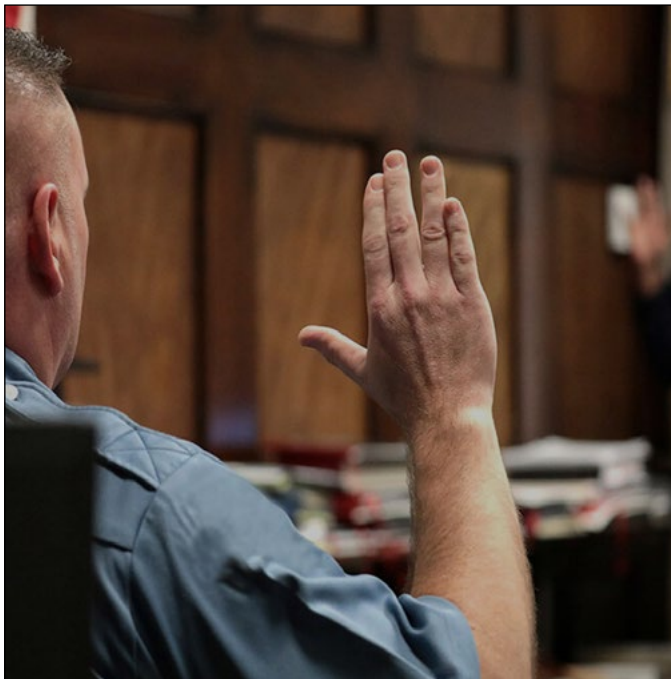
Preparing for court starts long before the courtroom

Being prepared for your case starts long before you ever step into the courtroom. There are three things that will set you up for success on the stand: 1) conducting a thorough investigation, 2) writing an accurate and complete police report, and 3) going over your testimony with the prosecutor. Each one is an important step in helping prepare you for success in the courtroom.

A thorough operating while intoxicated (OWI) investigation should contain three detection phases: 1) vehicle in motion, 2) personal contact, and 3) pre-arrest screening.¹

Vehicle in motion involves the operation of the vehicle or whatever other reason drew the officer's attention to the vehicle (e.g., dispatch call for a crash). It also involves how a driver responds to an officer's signal to pull over.²

During the personal-contact phase, the officer first makes contact with the driver. In this part of the investigation, the officer is observing the driver for any physical signs of intoxication, using their sense of smell for any odors of intoxicants or burned marijuana and listening to statements regarding use of anything that could impair the driver's faculties. How a suspect exits the vehicle may also be relevant



to intoxication under this phase.³

Finally, pre-arrest screening is the roadside investigation that includes the three standardized field sobriety tests (SFSTs) and any other field sobriety tests (FSTs) the officer chooses to do.⁴

Writing a complete and accurate police report is the next step in preparing yourself to testify successfully in court. Each phase of your OWI investigation must be documented in your report. This allows the report to flow in the same order of your investigation. Each phase should have its own heading, and subheadings should be utilized for the SFSTs and FSTs. The more complete the report, the better off you will be on the stand. Omissions and ambiguities always work in favor of the defendant. Without exception, review your report for accuracy. It is easier to correct a mistake early on than in front of a jury.

The final step in setting yourself up for success in the courtroom is reviewing your report and preparing with your prosecutor. It is important that you and the prosecutor be on the same page when it comes to what is expected of you on the stand. Reviewing your testimony with the prosecutor will help you enter the courtroom with confidence because you will know

what questions the prosecutor will be asking you on the stand. The prosecutor can also let you know the following: 1) what their issues or defenses are in the case and whether they pertain to your role in the case and 2) who the defense is and what to expect from them on cross examination.

Now it is time to testify

The Traffic Safety Training Program has been conducting monthly virtual Cops in Court trainings for the last two years. We have had the opportunity to examine hundreds of officers from around the state in a mock-trial setting.

Here is a list of our favorite "tips" for officers who may be getting ready to testify in an OWI case.

- Always tell the truth. Period.
- Your number one job is to know the facts of your case and what you wrote in your report. Know your report better than anyone in the courtroom.
- Avoid cop talk and sounding robotic. This makes it difficult for a jury to identify with you. It is always better to use plain language and be conversational.
- Avoid acronyms. If you do use them, make sure you know what they stand for.
- Be engaged. It shows the jury you care.
- Show your proficiencies in SFSTs. Make jurors familiar with the process so they will easily be able to discuss the SFSTs while they are deliberating. This makes it less mysterious and more straightforward when they are reaching a verdict. Talk to the prosecutor beforehand about demonstrating the SFSTs to the jury so they not only hear about the test but also see how it is performed.
- Create a story or visual narrative for the jury to follow. We refer to this as "painting the picture." Your report narrative and testimony must "connect the dots" for the jury.

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IMPAIRED from page 1

initiatives that prevent alcohol- and drug-impaired driving.”

For the past eight years, GHSA and Responsibility.org have funded state impaired-driving grant programs for proven and innovative countermeasures to enhance the identification and treatment of alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers. Over the past few years, the program has focused on high-risk impaired drivers with a particular emphasis on polysubstance use. Here are a few examples of how grant funds are being used:

- The Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration conducts “green labs” that allow law enforcement officers to witness firsthand the impairing effects of cannabis and alcohol impairment to better detect impaired drivers.
- The Michigan OHSP and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation each provided Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training to increase the number of officers with the expertise to recognize drivers under the influence of drugs and remove them from the road.
- The Georgia Governor’s Office of



Highway Safety is training state and local law enforcement officers as phlebotomists to allow them to draw blood from drivers suspected of being under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or both. This reduces the time between arrest and the collection of chemical evidence.

- The Louisiana Highway Safety Commission conducted a pilot project for judges to administer screening to drivers convicted of misdemeanor Driving While Intoxicated through the Computerized Assessment Referral System, which identifies substance abuse and other mental health issues and treatment options. GHSA’s SHSO members also

provided grant funding to their law enforcement partners to address alcohol and drug impairment during NHTSA’s national *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* mobilizations and throughout the year.

GHSA has published reports addressing the issue of drunk- and drug-impaired driving.

In July, GHSA joined with Responsibility.org and the National Alliance to Stop Impaired Driving to issue the report *Cannabis Consumers and Safe Driving: Responsible*

Use Messaging to help the SHSOs

address legalization and the uptick in fatalities involving drivers impaired by cannabis and other substances. GHSA also issued *High-Risk Impaired Drivers: Combating a Critical Threat*, also with the support of Responsibility.org, that addresses multi-substance use and identifies proven and promising countermeasures for addressing this population that accounts for a significant portion of impaired driving fatalities.

For more information on these and other GHSA and SHSO initiatives, visit the alcohol- and drug-impaired driving issue pages on the [GHSA website](#).



1,028 Michigan deaths as of Dec. 13, 2022

We're doing something new with grants!!
Save the Date
 Be on the lookout for an announcement soon!

Office of Highway Safety Planning Grant Workshop
 Two sessions scheduled
 January 23, 2023 or February 2, 2023

For more information about the OHSP grant proposal process and upcoming workshops, please see page 1.

WITNESS from page 3

- Always make eye contact with the jury. They are your audience.
- Be precise in your investigation, in your report, and in your testimony.
- Be yourself. It is part of being confident and comfortable on the stand.
- Listen to all the questions from both the prosecutor and defense attorney.
- Never argue with the defense attorney. It will never work in your favor. Remain calm and collected during both direct and cross examination.
- Make concessions when they are warranted on cross examination. They

1-4 https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/documents/sfst_ig_refresher_manual.pdf

make you look credible and reasonable.

- Always be likable. A jury is more likely

to believe a witness they like and can relate to.

In conclusion, be in command of the courtroom by coming to court prepared to testify confidently about your case. Do not be afraid to discuss the facts of the case on the stand. You are the hero stopping drunk and drugged drivers from hurting or killing others on the road.

Views expressed in this article are solely those of the authors. Please consult your prosecutor, local counsel, or commanding officers if you need any further guidance or before changing procedure based on this article. For more information on the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan Traffic Safety Training Program, contact [Kenneth Stecker](#) or [Kinga Canike](#).

INSIDE THE OHSP

STAFF PROFILE

Kendall Wingrove COMMUNICATIONS SECTION MANAGER

What do you like most about your job?

“Saved by the Belt” presentations and other occasions focusing on how traffic fatalities were prevented.

What are you most proud of at work?

The collection of television and radio commercials that OHSP has developed for its major programs.



What are your interests and hobbies?

I enjoy American history, genealogy, and classic movies.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

Michigan has so many incredible places to visit. Virginia is another state with lots of fun destinations.

What personal achievement are you most proud of?

My wife, Molly, and I have enjoyed mentoring students in a group called Curriculum Beyond the Classroom.

What's something people don't know about you?

As a teenager, I attended a National Boy Scout Jamboree in Pennsylvania. During the event, there was a writing contest sponsored by Colonel Harland Sanders, known for founding the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant chain. I won a prize in the competition, and that fueled my aspirations to be a journalist.

DRE Program Coordinator Mike Harris retires

Mike Harris, DRE Program Coordinator, recently retired from the OHSP after nearly 18 years with the division and 42 years overall with the Michigan State Police.

From 1978 to 2003, Mike served at various MSP posts, including Romeo, Detroit, East Tawas, Flint, and Lapeer.

He retired as a Detective Sergeant at Saginaw District headquarters.

Mike joined the OHSP in 2005.

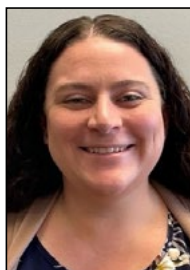
At right, OHSP director Katie Bower offered congratulations to Mike for his years of dedicated service to Michigan and presented him with gifts from the OHSP staff.

Congratulations, Mike!



OHSP WELCOMES

Katelyn Mullin recently joined the OHSP as the new Senior Executive Management Assistant.



Before starting with the division, Katelyn worked for Sparrow Health System for 11 years, most recently 6-plus years supporting the nursing

leadership and education team for the Emergency Service Line (critical care units and emergency departments).

Assisting others is a passion of Katelyn's, both professionally and personally. She has been a volunteer with Ele's Place—Capital Region for more than 14 years, working with grieving children and teens.

Katelyn was raised in the Lansing area and lives in Holt with her fiancé Melvin; their 5-month-old daughter, Wren; and their dog, Bentley. Katelyn enjoys attending concerts, trying new restaurants, and photography.

Vickie Jackson recently joined the OHSP as a secretary.

Before starting with the division, Vickie worked the past four years in the private sector as an office manager.

Prior to that, she was general manager of the Planet Fitness in

Okemos for seven years.

Vickie was born and raised in Berlin, New Hampshire, and lived in North Conway, New Hampshire, until moving to Michigan in 2005.

She currently resides in Owosso with her husband and their dog, Daisy. She has two grown children and one grandson.

Some of Vickie's hobbies include reading, travel, cooking, concerts, crafts, and hanging out with friends and family.

Welcome, Katelyn and Vickie!

