

**Montana Department of Transportation
State Highway Traffic Safety Section (MDT-SHTSS)
Occupant Protection Mini-Grant Program**

Occupant Protection Mini Grants are being accepted through MDT's Webgrant system <https://fundingmt.org/index.do>. Registration is required, and the funding opportunity number is: #108078- MDT Occupant Protection Mini-Grant Program.

There is no deadline for applications. Grant awards are dependent on the availability of federal funding and if the application meets the intent of the program while assuring state/federal requirement compliance.

What is the Occupant Protection Program?

The Occupant Protection Program promotes the benefits of seat belt and car seat use. The long-term impact of this program is to increase occupant protection usage resulting in measurable progress toward the reduction in motor vehicle fatalities and incapacitating injuries on Montana roads. Research shows the chances of being fatally injured in a crash are reduced by nearly half for people wearing seat belts in passenger cars.

What is the Mini-Grant Program?

The Mini-Grant Program is a grant offered to assist Montana communities deal with the need for increased local public information and education (PI&E) programs that reach various demographics to encourage increases in safety belts and child car seat usage. A variety of projects can be considered for this funding. Projects must be data driven and demonstrate collaboration.

Projects must fall within the broad Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant strategies and opportunities for action outlined within Montana Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan: [2020 Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan \(mt.gov\)](https://www.mdt.gov/2020-Comprehensive-Highway-Safety-Plan)

What are the requirements of the Mini-Grant? Approval of an Occupant Protection Mini-Grant requires that you:

- 1) Illustrate the problem with data
- 2) Identify collaboration partners
- 3) Establish the target population
- 4) Provide a project goal and objectives
- 5) Describe the expected outcomes and how you intend on verifying meeting objectives/outcomes.

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) produces crash/fatality data: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/datastats/crashdata.shtml>

The data provided can be narrowed down to the county level. Applicants are encouraged to use local data in funding proposals to establish need.

What you need to know:

- This grant requires an executed contract and approved budget between your agency and MDT prior to any grant activity.
- The grant operates on a “reimbursement basis”. MDT will be paying you for the expenses incurred to conduct the activity after the fact.
- There are restrictions on what items/services can be purchased with grant funds – contact MDT prior to making any purchase.
- **The purchase of car seats will not be approved through the OP Mini-Grant Program.**
- Your project may be shared on MDT’s website and social media pages – pictures and video are encouraged!
- Grant application cannot exceed \$5,000.
- All Reporting and invoicing are via the Montana Webgrants System

For questions pertaining to the funding opportunity, contact Occupant Protection Traffic Safety Planner, Erin Root, at (406) 444-0809  or via email eroot@mt.gov.