



Washington Association of
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BIKE/SKATEBOARD HELMET GRANTS AWARDED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

(Lacey, WA) --- Thirteen Washington communities will receive grants for local law enforcement to provide free bike/skateboard helmets. The funds were awarded by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) as a part of a program approved by the Washington Legislature in 2021.

The funds will help local law enforcement agencies with helmet distribution programs in order to reduce traumatic brain injuries throughout the state. The funds are to provide helmets to persons contacted by an official of a local law enforcement agency for not wearing a helmet while riding a skateboard or bicycle. Interest in the grants exceeded the \$10,000 legislative allocation which indicates the need for the program.

"Traumatic brain injuries are often times the tragic aftermath of not wearing a helmet, said Rep. Dan Griffey (R-Allyn) who secured state funding for the program. "A parent reached out to me after his own son suffered a debilitating brain injury during a skateboarding event. This program is a serious attempt to encourage everyone to wear helmets starting with our youth. It is also a great opportunity for our first responders to interact with kiddos in our communities and build positive relationships that can last a lifetime."

The grants will be distributed to the following agencies who submitted proposals for funding:

- Black Diamond, \$1,000
- Bothell, \$1,000
- Camas, \$500
- Cowlitz County, \$1,000
- DuPont PD, \$500
- Edmonds, \$1,000
- Garfield County, \$500
- Lewis County Target Zero Task Force, \$1,000
- Longview, \$1,000
- Poulsbo, \$1,000
- Soap Lake, \$500
- Spokane County, \$1,000
- Walla Walla PD, \$500

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WASPC was founded in 1963 and represents executive and top management personnel from law enforcement agencies statewide. With more than 900 members it includes the 39 elected county sheriffs, and 240 police chiefs, as well as the Washington State Patrol, the Washington Department of Corrections, and representatives of several federal agencies.