



Managing Highway Safety Programs During a Public Health Emergency

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

6.23.2020

AGENDA

1

Introduction

2

Impact on Operations

3

Impact on Programs

4

Key Findings

IMPACT ON OPERATIONS

*Impact on operations at
NHTSA*



IMPACT ON OPERATIONS



1

Immediate Effect

- HQ & regions went to 100% telework
- HQ & regions paused all travel



2

Response

- Move to virtual platforms for business processes and meetings



3

Result

- Continued operation of service across all modes

IMPACT ON PROGRAMS

*Impact on NHTSA
programs and grant
administration*



IMPACT ON NHTSA PROGRAMS



1

Immediate Effect

Across the board:

- Physical challenges
- Fiscal challenges
- Workforce challenges

Impacting:

- State Highway Safety Offices
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Law Enforcement



2

Response

- Media campaigns across multiple media to address pandemic-specific challenges
- Establishment of public-facing email inboxes to collect questions & concerns
- Issuance of decision to accept electronic submission for specific documentation
- Scheduling of weekly calls to stakeholder organizations by the EMS group



3

Result

- NHTSA Office of Communications media plan
- Memorandum of understanding with Johns Hopkins University to aid antibody testing
- Implementation of high-level authorizations such as OMB Memorandum M-20-17 and the CARES Act
- EMS.gov's COVID-19 website and guidance

IMPACT ON GRANT PROGRAMS

Frequently Asked Questions -- Impacts of Public Health Emergency (COVID-19) on NHTSA's Highway Safety Grant Program
May 8, 2020

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

BACKGROUND:

On April 9, 2020, NHTSA Deputy Administrator announced the postponements under the CARES Act and updated to reflect that notice.

This guidance is intended to help States and territories understand the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on the Highway Safety Grant Program during the emergency and will remain effective until the emergency ends. NHTSA understands that some States may have questions about the impact of the emergency on their certifications, and assurances. NHTSA is providing this guidance to help States and territories understand the impact of the emergency on the Highway Safety Grant Program during the emergency and will remain effective until the emergency ends.

1. **Question:** What process should States use to request administrative relief from the program?

Answer: States should contact their State Office. When sending questions, please include the following information: State, Office, and contact information. To facilitate resolution, please email a central e-mail box for State questions at nhtsaopdprogramquestions@nhtsa.gov.

The screenshot shows the EMS.gov website. The header includes the EMS.gov logo, a search bar, and links for 'RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES' and 'CONTACT'. The main navigation bar has links for HOME, PROJECTS, INITIATIVES, FICEMS, NEMSAC, and NEWS & EVENTS. On the left, a 'PROJECTS' sidebar lists various topics including COVID-19, State Assessments, Evidence Based Guidelines, Opioid Crisis, Nomenclature, EMS Education Standards, CPR LifeLinks, EMS Agenda 2050, Provider & Patient Safety, Stop the Bleed Initiative, and NEMSIS. The main content area is titled 'COVID-19 Resources for EMS' and features a graphic with the text 'What EMS and 911 NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19'. Below the graphic, there is a paragraph about NHTSA's role in the federal response and a link to the CDC's situational summary. At the bottom, there are four buttons linking to 'CDC Situational Summary', 'CDC Guidance for EMS and First Responders', 'CDC Infection Prevention and Control Guidance', and 'CDC Clinical Guidance for Management of COVID-19 Patients'. A footer note mentions that NHTSA and FEMA are maintaining a list of other Federal guidance and resources.

Guidance

- Highway Safety Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Website
- 911 Grant Program Guidance Document

Flexibility

- Implementation of OMB Memorandum M-20-17
- Implementation of CARES Act

DEEP DIVE: CARES ACT RESPONSE



1

Immediate Effect

Across the board:

- Physical challenges
- Fiscal challenges
- Workforce challenges

Impacting:

- State Highway Safety Offices
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Law Enforcement



2

Response

Postponed or waived requirements for:

- High Visibility Enforcement Mobilizations and Crackdowns
- Seatbelt Use Surveys
- Program Assessments
- Highway Safety Plan and Incentive Grant Application Due Dates
- Maintenance of Effort
- Expenditure Requirements for FY2016 Funds
- Local Benefit/Share to Local



3

Result

- Every waived or postponed requirement has been utilized

KEY FINDINGS

*Key findings and topics for
further evaluation*



KEY FINDINGS

Grant Administration & Oversight

- Collaboration with traffic safety partners was helped NHTSA to quickly pivot and continue to conduct normal operations in order to support the Agency's mission
- NHTSA is continuing to evaluate processes that may require a more permanent change or shift

KEY FINDINGS

2020 First Quarter (Jan – Mar) Fatality Projections

- 70 fewer lives lost in 2020 Q1 (7,780) as compared to 2019 Q1 (7,850) – a 0.9 percent decline
- FHWA reported VMT declined by 40.1 billion miles – about a 5.4 percent decline during 2020 Q1 as compared to 2019 Q1
- Fatality Rate per 100 Million VMT increased to 1.10 during 2020 Q1 from 1.05 in 2019 Q1



All of us at NHTSA applaud the daily contributions and ingenuity demonstrated by our stakeholders and their employees as they assist their surrounding communities. We look forward to a continued partnership with you to advance these efforts during this challenging time.



James C. Owens, Deputy Administrator, NHTSA