



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **El Centro Police Department Receives Grant to Fight Alcohol-related Harm**

El Centro will receive \$39,500.00 to Increase Public Safety

El Centro, Calif. - El Centro Police Chief Robert Sawyer announced today that the El Centro Police Department has been awarded a \$39,500.00 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and will be administered by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to battle alcohol-related harm.

"This is crucial for the City of El Centro to enhance protection for youth and address problem areas that contribute to rising crime, ensuring accountability for those locations," said Chief Sawyer.

The goal of the grant is to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors and reduce alcohol-related crime through multiple enforcement, educational, and prevention programs conducted by local law enforcement officers. Programs funded through the grant include Minor Decoy, IMPACTS, Holiday Enforcement and Shoulder Tap Decoy operations.

"These grants help improve the quality of life in neighborhoods by addressing alcohol-related concerns," said ABC Director Joseph McCullough.

The grants strengthen local law enforcement efforts by combining the resources of local police officers and ABC agents. ABC agents have expertise in alcoholic beverage laws and can help communities reduce alcohol-related problems.

The funds will be used to reduce the number of alcoholic beverage sales to minors, obviously intoxicated patrons, illegal solicitations of alcohol, and other criminal activities.

ABC protects communities through education, prevention, and enforcement programs designed to increase compliance with California's alcoholic beverage laws.

ABC encourages licensees to sign up for ABC's Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs (LEAD) training free of charge. Licensees and their employees can now [take the training online](#). They can also sign up for training in person in a classroom setting.

To learn more about ABC enforcement and prevention programs that help increase public safety visit: [Enforcement programs](#) and [Prevention programs](#).

ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.

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