

NEWS RELEASE

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Hancock County Partnership Awarded Car Seat Mini Grant

Buckle Up Right, Every Trip, Every Time

Hancock County EHS/ HS & Pre-K/ Hancock County Sheriff Office & Hancock County Health Department was awarded the 2017 Car Seat Mini-Grant by the Georgia Department of Public Health, Injury Prevention Program. Through the Mini-Grant, Hancock County Head Start, Hancock County Sheriff Office, and Hancock County Health Department work together to provide car seats and education to financially eligible families in Hancock County. This program is funded by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to help ensure Georgia's children are safe while riding in motor vehicles.

And it works! Since 2007, the education, car seats and booster seats provided through the Mini Grant prevented serious injury or death and saved over 300 of Georgia's children who were involved in crashes. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, car seats reduce fatal injuries by 71 percent among infants and by 54 percent among children ages 1 to 4 years in passenger cars. Car seats offer the best protection for children in the event of a crash, and they are most effective when installed and used correctly. Nearly three out of every four car seats are not used properly, placing children at unnecessary risk.

"It's our responsibility to keep our children safe," said Sheriff Tomyln Primus." The Car Seat Mini-Grant is a great opportunity to help our community and help protect our children from serious injuries or death in motor vehicle crashes."

In Hancock County, Hancock County Head Start, Hancock County Sheriff Office, and Hancock County Hancock County Health Department educate(s) parents and caregivers on how to properly install and use car seats, offer(s) car seat inspections and provide(s) car seats and booster seats to financially eligible families. Through the Car Seat Mini-Grant, agencies supporting more than 130 counties are working to keep Georgia's children safe. These programs help families get their children buckled up right, every trip, every time.

For more information about the car seat program, contact **Hancock County Early Head Start Program** at **(706) 444-6920**.