



APPLETON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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February 2, 2024

To: City of Appleton Board of Health
City of Appleton Finance Committee

From: Charles E. Sepers, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H., Health Officer/Director

Subject: Request for Acceptance of Wisconsin BOTS Grant

I am writing to propose that our health department applies for, and accepts, the Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety (BOTS) grant, a valuable opportunity to enhance child passenger safety within our community. The key aspects of this grant and its alignment with our public health goals are outlined below:

1. **Grant Overview:** The BOTS grant offers \$4000 for the federal fiscal year, dedicated to purchasing car seats for families in need. This grant is renewable annually, ensuring ongoing support for this critical initiative.
2. **Eligibility Criteria:** To qualify for a free car seat, families must meet the federal poverty level guidelines. However, it's important to note that all City of Appleton residents requiring assistance with child passenger safety will be supported, regardless of income. The poverty guidelines specifically apply to the provision of free car seats.
3. **Education and Safety:** A pivotal component of this program is the education provided to families on the correct use and installation of car seats. This training is conducted by a staff member who is a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, ensuring that families receive expert guidance.
4. **Evaluation and Feedback:** All participating families are required to complete a recipient survey form. This process is crucial for assessing the effectiveness of our educational efforts and making necessary improvements.
5. **Regional Adoption:** Several local health departments in the tri-county area already participate in this grant program, demonstrating its feasibility and success in neighboring communities.
6. **Program's Goal:** The primary objective of this initiative is to ensure that all child passengers are in the correct car seat, significantly reducing the risk of injury or fatality in the event of a crash.

In conclusion, the BOTS grant represents a strategic opportunity to bolster our community's health and safety infrastructure. By providing essential resources to families in need, we can significantly contribute to reducing child injuries and fatalities in vehicular incidents. I strongly recommend that we pursue this important funding and look forward to discussing this proposal further.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Sepers, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer/Director
Appleton Health Department