



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 14, 2024**

**For More Information, Please Contact:**

**Dayna Gonzalez**

**Public Information Officer, (559) 457-1720**

**[dgonzalez@fresno.courts.ca.gov](mailto:dgonzalez@fresno.courts.ca.gov)**

### **Driving Under the Influence Collaborative Court Grant Expanded and Extended**

The Fresno County Superior Court, in partnership with the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), has been awarded a one-year grant to continue its comprehensive misdemeanor court program addressing repeat offenders with second and third driving-under-the-influence (DUI) offenses. This grant took effect on October 1, 2024, and extends the program's operation through September 2025, marking the fifth consecutive year of support from the OTS, with previous grants awarded annually since 2020.

With the \$537,000 grant from the OTS, this program is focused on continuing services for high-risk individuals with second and third-time DUI convictions. By combining structured monitoring with supportive guidance, the program is designed to reduce the chances of repeat DUI offenses. By completing substance abuse treatment, participants significantly reduce their likelihood of repeat DUI offenses, leading to fewer incidents of impaired driving and a decrease in traffic-related injuries and fatalities. This outcome aligns with the program's overarching goal of enhancing public safety in our community.

In regards to the program, Judge Amy K. Guerra, who presides over this calendar, had this to say:

"Due to the collaborative efforts of the Court, Fresno County Probation, the Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health and our justice partners, the DUI court has been extremely successful. The program's balance of supervision, accountability, and rehabilitative treatment serves to connect participants with needed services, while simultaneously supporting the goal of preventing further recidivism and limiting impaired drivers in the community."

The Court's program continues to partner with healthcare providers, social services, and other community-based organizations, all of whom work together to administer effective courses of treatment for participants through a combination of judicial supervision and other supportive services. All participants are ordered to abstain from the use of alcohol and drugs and are monitored on a daily basis by one of several alcohol monitoring companies. They are also screened on a regular basis by treatment facilities. All findings are reported to the collaborative justice team, who address any issues with the participants and work to get them back on track.

"Intervention programs are key to fostering a safer and more supportive community," said OTS Director Barbara Rooney. " By providing specialized resources and focused attention, this program will help reduce impaired driving incidents and create safer roads for all."

Funding for this program, provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, will continue through September 2025.



# # #