

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
(916) 419-2500



November 13, 2012

**TO: SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS OF CALIFORNIA**

**FROM: PATRICK DEASY, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, GRANT UNIT**

**SUBJECT: MINOR DECOY/SHOULDER TAP GRANT PROGRAM**

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Beginning January 2013, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), sponsored by the Governor's Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, will be awarding grants of \$2,500 to \$10,000 to local law enforcement agencies to utilize both the Minor Decoy Program and the Shoulder Tap Program. The grant operation period will be February 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013.

The goal of the Minor Decoy Program is to reduce the number of licensees who sell alcoholic beverages to minors. The Minor Decoy Program is a significant and effective tool for law enforcement officials in combating sales of alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 21 years. Local law enforcement agencies began using the program in the early 1980's and on April 4, 1994; the California Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision upholding the use of underage decoys by law enforcement officials.

As a result of the 1994 California Supreme Court decision, minor decoys used by local law enforcement agencies are immune from prosecution. Further, Section 25658(f) of the Business and Professions Code and Rule 141 of the California Code of Regulations were established to provide the legal requirements for law enforcement agencies when conducting a decoy operation.

The Shoulder Tap Program targets adults who furnish alcoholic beverages to minors. "Shoulder Tapping" refers to the practice used by minors to obtain alcohol from adult strangers near off-sale retail outlets. A youthful-appearing underage police operative approaches adults outside an alcohol outlet and requests that the adult purchase alcohol on the operative's behalf. The program targets locations where problems have been reported and uses the same general guidelines for the police operative's actions as in the Minor Decoy Program compliance checks (e.g. no deception, false identification or attempts to look older).

Data collected from prior Shoulder Tap Programs reflected one-third of the adults arrested for purchasing alcohol for minors were on parole, probation, had outstanding warrants or extensive criminal histories.

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If your agency would like to be considered for this grant please submit all of the following documents: See ABC website at [www.abc.ca.gov](http://www.abc.ca.gov) for more information.

- A Letter of Interest
- Printout of your City/County Traffic Safety Ranking (depicting alcohol involved fatalities and injuries and had been drinking (HBD) drivers under 21) from the Office of Traffic Safety website at [www.ots.ca.gov](http://www.ots.ca.gov)
- Budget Estimate form

Send all of the above to:

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control  
Attn: Patrick Deasy, District Administrator, Grant Unit  
3927 Lennane Drive, Suite #100  
Sacramento, CA 95834

For additional information on the grant process go to the ABC website at [www.abc.ca.gov](http://www.abc.ca.gov). Click on “ABC Announces Mini Grants for Local Law Enforcement Agencies” located under Points of Interest on the home page. Then click on Grant Requirements in order to download the Adobe Acrobat PDF formatted forms to your computer for review and completion.

**All letters of interest must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 17, 2012.**

A selection committee will review and evaluate all proposals using a point system and it is anticipated that selections will be made on or about January 1, 2013. The operational dates will be from February 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013. Selections will be based upon the applicant’s responses to the Grant Requirements and the ability to implement this grant based on the program and administrative requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the letter of interest, please call Diana Fouts-Guter at (916) 928-9807.

Sincerely,

Patrick Deasy  
District Administrator, Grant Unit