



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Department of Criminal Justice Training
Office of Communications

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VITAL KENTUCKY LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM
RE-FUNDED THROUGH TRANSPORTATION GRANT

RICHMOND, Ky. – A check for \$80,000 today was presented to the Department of Criminal Justice Training to re-fund for another year a vital, collaborative, statewide effort – Drug Recognition Expert training.

Kentucky Office of Highway Safety Executive Director Chuck Geveden presented the federal grant monies on behalf of KOHS and the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration during a ceremony at DOCJT.

“We have work to do,” Geveden said during the check presentation ceremony. “Too many lives are lost because someone chose to drive by not obeying the traffic laws of the commonwealth.”

Specifically, the DRE training grant will again fund courses for new DRE candidates, to train DRE instructors, and to re-certify those trained in drug recognition evaluations.

Now a multi-agency effort, the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program is running at full speed to train and certify drug recognition experts. Highly effective and skilled at detection and identification of drug and alcohol-related impairments, DREs conduct a methodical 12-step evaluation consisting of physical, mental and medical components.

The DRE-evaluation process determines whether or not the person is impaired or able to operate a vehicle safely; if their impairment is due to injury, illness or medical complication or drug related; and if drug related, which category or combination of categories is the source of the drug-related impairment.

“I think the fact that we are just having a ceremony here today indicates how important – certainly how important DOCJT considers the DRE program to be,” said DOCJT Commissioner John Bizzack. “We have trained about 114 officers across the state in this process.

“The key is that trying to go back and track cases that are affected by DRE officers, we find that we don’t have any to track because the people who are arrested by DRE officer recognition have pleaded guilty, and that tells you something about the effectiveness of this program,” Bizzack continued.

Also presented with checks today were the Richmond Police Department, Madison County Sheriff’s Office and Madison County Health Department. Law enforcement funding can be used for overtime, enforcement and equipment. Health departments will use these funds for child-passenger safety and safe-communities programs.

“Combined efforts by state and local law enforcement and other safety related agencies are critical in the effort to keep Kentucky’s highways safe,” Geveden said. “By merging education with enforcement, we hope to continue to reduce the number of fatalities and injuries on our roadways.”

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