



Name: Gabrielle Rivas

Desk Phone: +1 (559) 608-9020

Email: [gerivas@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:gerivas@tularecounty.ca.gov)

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## Tulare County Probation Receives Grant Funding for High-risk and Repeat DUI Offenders

**Tulare County, California** – Tulare County Probation Department received a \$138,590 grant to supervise high-risk and repeat DUI offenders. For the last 14 years, funding provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has allowed the department to assign a dedicated Deputy Probation Officer to a specialized DUI caseload.

The funding also pays for warrant operations targeting probation violations and DUI suspects who do not appear in court, alcohol testing, officer training, and collaborating with courts and prosecutors to establish probation orders.

“This grant will allow us to tackle the complex issues surrounding repeat DUI offenders, providing vital resources and guidance to break the cycle of alcohol-related offenses,” Tulare County Probation Department Chief Probation Officer Kelly Vernon said. “With this funding, we can create safer roads and a healthier community by reducing the incidence of DUI offenses.”

In 2020, Tulare County ranked 17th out of 58 counties in the OTS rankings for alcohol-related collisions where victims were killed or injured. When broken down by age group, Tulare County ranked 15th out of 58 counties for collisions involving a driver under 21 who had been drinking and 14th out of 58 counties for collisions involving a driver aged 21 – 34 who had been drinking.

“The intensive supervision programs are critical to reducing the devastating consequences of DUI offenses,” OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. “Prevention is an effective, proactive tool to address the often-tragic consequences of impaired driving.” The grant program runs through September 2024.

This program is funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

### About Tulare County Probation

The Tulare County Probation Department was established in 1908 and provides a multi-dimensional approach to community safety. We are committed to an evidence-based approach to public safety that promotes positive behavior change.



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