

# North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program

## SECTION A – GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Project Title: * Union County Sheriff's Office Toxicology Lab Expansion	Fiscal Year: 2027
2. Agency: 1000001022 - UNION COUNTY	3. Contact Person for Agency: David Williams
4. Agency Address: SHERIFF 3370 PRESSON RD MONROE, NC 28112-9140	5. Telephone Number: * 704-245-1896
	6. Cell Phone:
7. Physical Location of Agency * 3370 Presson Rd. Monroe, NC 28112-9140	8. Email of Contact Person * David.Williams2@unioncountync.gov
9. Federal Tax ID Number / Type of Agency  Federal Tax ID Number: * 56-6000345 Unique Entity Identifier: LHMKBD4AGRJ5 County: * UNION  Type of Agency <input type="radio"/> State <input type="radio"/> Non-Profit <input checked="" type="radio"/> County <input type="radio"/> Higher Education <input type="radio"/> Municipality <input type="radio"/> Hospital	10. Project Year *  <input checked="" type="radio"/> New <input type="radio"/> Continuation Year: <input checked="" type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3 <input type="radio"/> 4+  Application Number: 1000028039
	11. Allocation of Funding *  Federal % 100.00 Local % 0.00

### Source of Funds

12. Budget	Total Project Amount	Federal Amount	State/Local Amount
Personnel Costs			
Contractual Services			
Other Direct Costs			
Indirect Costs			
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>		

13. Specify How Non-Federal Share Will Be Provided: \*

Project Number: _____	CFDA#: 20.
Additional Project Number: _____	Work Type: _____
Additional Project Number1: _____	Additional Work Type: _____
Additional Project Number2: _____	Additional Work Type1: _____
	Additional Work Type2: _____

## SECTION B – DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

**Statement of Problem** (Provide detailed information of the highway safety problems in your area to be addressed through this project. Include countywide crash data for the last three years and any other relevant information to validate the statements. For more detailed information see "How to write an effective traffic safety project" located at:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/Law-Enforcement/Pages/Law-Enforcement-Reporting.aspx>

The Union County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services to all Union County residents. There are four (4) municipal Police Departments within the County. They include Monroe Police Department, Stallings Police Department, Waxhaw Police

Department and Marshville Police Department. The Union County Sheriff's Office provides contracted law enforcement services to the following: Town of Indian Trail (35 contract Deputies) This includes 7 Traffic Enforcement Deputies. Town of Weddington (5 contract Deputies), Town of Wingate (4 contract Deputies) Village of Marvin (2 contract Deputies), Village of Weddington (2 contract Deputies) and Village of Wesley Chapel (1 contract Deputy). There is also a Lieutenant who is in charge and over the contract Deputies for these Towns/Villages.

Union County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in North Carolina. The 2025 population was estimated at just over 269,000 people, which is up from 2022 at 248,000. Union County is rapidly developing and this includes housing, shopping centers, and businesses within the County. The majority of the growth had been in the western side of the County in and around the Towns of Indian Trail and Stallings. But with the addition of the Monroe Expressway in 2018, most residents can take the Expressway and be in Uptown Charlotte between 30 and 45 minutes. The Monroe Expressway has in turn created a housing and business growth in the eastern side of the County.

The Union County Sheriff's Office DWI Task Force (S.A.F.E Unit) that was first created with a GHSP grant in 2016 and is still in operation. The original grant was for 4 Deputies and a Supervisor. Today the S.A.F.E. unit has 5 Deputies and a Supervisor assigned to the DWI Task Force. The Task Force has over 900 DWI charges over the past 3 years (2023-2025). Union County is ranked 20th in overall fatalities in the State, 17th in alcohol related fatalities, 14th in unrestrained fatalities and 14th in alcohol fatal crashes.

The GHSP funded a Gas Chromatography with Mass Spectrometer and a Gas Chromatography with Flame Detection for the newly constructed Union County Crime Lab in 2023. In the Year that ended in 2024, the Union County Crime Lab was able to analyze 256 Blood Alcohol kits and in 2025 they were able to analyze 248 Blood alcohol kits. The average turnaround time was 11.7 days. The tests were completed for the following agencies: Union County Sheriff's Office, Monroe Police Department, Stallings Police Department and Waxhaw Police Department. The Crime Lab was able to begin the Blood Drug Analysis in 2025. They were able to analyze 258 BDC kits. The average turnaround time for these was 27.3 days. The reason it took this long is because they had 2 months of work stoppage for method validation. The actual times would have been much less without the work stoppage.

The Union County Sheriff's Office will begin in 2026 to expand the Lab availability to surrounding Counties and Law Enforcement agencies. With this expansion, they anticipate a very heavy workload.

**Proposed Solution** ( Begin with a one-sentence summary of your project. Then describe in detail how your proposed project will address the problem identified in the "Statement of Problem" section ):

With the Toxicology Lab expansion to the surrounding Counties and Law enforcement agencies, we are anticipating an increase for Blood Alcohol and Drug Blood Drug kits for DWI Detection. We anticipate additional law enforcement agencies will be sending their blood alcohol and blood drug kits to our Lab for testing. The Union County Sheriff's Office will use the grant funding to hire two (2) additional Chemists. The 2 additional Chemists will help to decrease the turnaround times for these Blood tests. This will alleviate the DWI case backloads and will decrease the time it takes to bring these cases to court, with anticipated conviction rates. The goal for our agency is to hold drivers accountable for driving while impaired and reduce the possibility of recidivism and alcohol related fatalities and injuries.

The duties for these Chemists are as follows:

**Budget Justification** (Provide a detailed explanation of the costs associated with proposed project):

**Travel Justification** (Provide justification for all travel expenses):

To be completed by all law enforcement agencies:	
Provide the agency's number of sworn officers	264
Does the agency currently have a dedicated traffic or DWI unit?	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
If a dedicated traffic or DWI unit exists, how many officers are assigned to the unit?	13

For applicants requesting enforcement grants, please provide the following county fatality rankings:  
Information can be located at:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/Law-Enforcement/Pages/Law-Enforcement-Reporting.aspx>

Overall Fatality Ranking:	20
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Alcohol Fatality Ranking:	17
Unrestrained Fatality Ranking:	14
Speed Related Fatalities:	25
Other Applicable Rankings: <i>(Specify)</i>	Alcohol fatal crashes-#14

As part of this project all law enforcement agencies must enter traffic enforcement citations data of their agency for the past three years.

Year 2023	Occupant Protection Citations	333	DWI Citations	321	Speed Citations	3,177
Year 2024	Occupant Protection Citations	248	DWI Citations	532	Speed Citations	1,985
Year 2025	Occupant Protection Citations	183	DWI Citations	536	Speed Citations	2,015

**Goals and Objectives** *(Provide at least one SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely) goals and objectives. For more detailed information see "How to write an effective traffic safety project" located at:*

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/Law-Enforcement/Pages/Law-Enforcement-Reporting.aspx>)

Goal #1: To reduce the alcohol-related fatalities in Union County by 35% from the 2020-2024 5 year average of 6.4 to 4 fatalities by September 30, 2026.

Objectives: To Hire Two Additional Chemists for Blood Alcohol and Blood Drug testing for DWI charges. We will do this by decreasing the turnaround times from 11.7 days for the Blood Alcohol tests to under 10 days, and for the Blood Drug tests from the current 27.3 days to under 10 days. We will expand the Blood Lab availability to the surrounding Counties and the Law Enforcement agencies. This will serve to hold drivers accountable for driving while impaired and reduce the possibility of recidivism and alcohol related fatalities and injuries.

Goal #2:

Objectives:

Goal #3:

Objectives:

**Below are the 5-year goals of the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP). To be eligible for funding, your traffic safety project should match one or more of the GHSP goals. Check all that apply.**

- ☐ Reduce NC's traffic fatalities by 6% from the 2024 total of 1,748 to 1,643 by December 31, 2029.
- ☒ Reduce NC's alcohol-related fatalities by 6% from the 2020-2024 five-year average of 428.2 to 402 by December 31, 2029.
- ☐ Reduce NC's unrestrained fatalities by 6% from the 2020-2024 five-year average of 510.8 to 480 by December 31, 2029.
- ☐ Reduce NC's speed-related fatalities by 6% from the 2020-2024 five-year average of 409 to 384 by December 31, 2029.
- ☐ Reduce NC's young driver-related fatalities by 6% from the 2024 total of 191 to 179 by December 31, 2029.
- ☐ Reduce NC's motorcycle fatalities by 6% from the 2020-2024 five-year average of 199.2 to 187 by December 31, 2029.
- ☐ Increase NC's seat belt usage rate from the 2025 usage rate of 92.17% to 93.17% by December 31, 2029.

## SECTION C – BUDGET DETAIL

## SECTION D – SCHEDULE OF TASKS BY QUARTERS

List the schedule of tasks by quarters, referring specifically to the objectives in Section B. Tasks should be a bulleted list of activities to be performed in each quarter.

### Conditions for Enforcement Projects Only

*By checking this box, the above agency agrees to the terms below as additional activities to be performed as part of this project.*



- A minimum of one (1) nighttime and one (1) daytime seat belt initiative per month;
- A minimum of one (1) impaired driving checkpoint per month;
- A minimum of 50% of seat belt initiatives must be conducted at night between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.;
- Participation in all "Click It or Ticket" and "Booze It & Lose It" campaigns;
- Participation in any event or campaign as required by the GHSP;
- Attempt to utilize one of the Forensic Tests for Alcohol Branch's Mobile Breath Alcohol Testing (BATMobiles) units during at least one of the impaired driving checkpoints.

First Quarter (October, November, December)

Begin the selection process for hiring the 2 new Chemists. Notify the surrounding Counties and law enforcement agencies about the Lab expansion to their areas.

Second Quarter (January, February, March)

Hire the new Chemist and have them trained to begin testing for Blood Alcohol and Blood Drug DWI tests. Begin the Blood Alcohol and Blood Drug kits for the surrounding Counties and law enforcement agencies.

Third Quarter (April, May, June)

Continue the Lab expansion to the surrounding Counties and Law enforcement agencies. Continue the testing for Blood Alcohol and Blood Drug kits for DWI's.

Fourth Quarter (July, August, September)

Continue the Lab expansion to the surrounding Counties and law enforcement agencies. Continue the testing for Blood Alcohol and Blood Drug kits for DWI's. Decrease the turnaround times for these tests.

**AGENCY AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE**



I have read and accept terms and conditions of the grant funding and attached the Grant Agreement. The information supplied in this application is true to the best of my knowledge

Name:

PIN:

Date:

**Note:**

1. Submitting grant application is not a guarantee of grant being approved.
2. Once form has been submitted, it cannot be changed unless it has a status of "Return".

**FOR GHSP USE ONLY:**

Recommendation:

Date: