



# CPS Diversion Program

## Update

May 7, 2025

# FDOT Demonstration Project

- December 12, 2024 – September 30, 2025
- March 2025
  - Subgrant with PRG Approved
  - New NSC Program Manager Hired
  - Performance Reports and RFR Submitted

# Work Plan

## Meetings with PRG

- Develop Work Plan
- Quantitative Data
- Begin Discussions for Final Report

# Curriculum

## Car Seat Basics

- Approved by FLHSMV\*
- Used as Presentation
- Update Expected Summer 2025



# Research

## Meetings with Other States

- Alabama
- Connecticut
- Georgia
- More



# Program Overview for Each State



## State Child Restraint Offender Programs

### Connecticut

#### Overview

Connecticut has 13 judicial districts. When the child restraint was updated in 1998, there was a stronger push to add an educational component.

Infraction	Penalty	Diversion option	Other mitigation
1 <sup>st</sup> violation	Infraction	Required to pass or 2-month suspension	Fine - with proof of appropriate car seat within 14 days
2 <sup>nd</sup> violation	Fine up to \$190	Required to pass or 2-month suspension	
3 <sup>rd</sup> violation	Class A Misdemeanor		

#### Methodology

Law Enforcement issues citation which is sent to the court.  
The court sends to the DMV where statute is applied.  
Two-month suspension notice automatically sent.  
Suspension notice includes details of suspension and requirement to attend car seat education course.

Options:  
In-person course (bilingual available)  
Virtual - [Car Seat Basics](#) is assigned based on judicial district for tracking.

#### Funding

DMV pays instructors to teach in-person class

#### Mitigation

Suspension released for 1<sup>st</sup> and second violators if course is passed

#### Challenges

No car seat distribution

Contact Us:  
[safety@nsc.org](mailto:safety@nsc.org)

Learn More:  
[nsc.org/carseats](https://nsc.org/carseats)



## State Child Restraint Offender Programs

### Alabama

#### Overview

Alabama has 67 counties. As of January 2025, Alabama is piloting a diversion program in 3 counties – Montgomery County which is more populous, and two rural counties depending on availability of instructors.

Infraction	Penalty	Diversion option	Other mitigation
1 <sup>st</sup> violation	Fine up to \$25 1 point*		Fine - with proof of appropriate car seat within 14 days
2 <sup>nd</sup> violation	Fine up to \$25 2 points*		
Subsequent	Fine up to \$25 2 points*		

\*Points for driving record only and do not impact insurance

#### Methodology

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) set up an email and phone number for the program.  
Law enforcement has a tear pad/sticky note to distribute with citation depending on availability of instructors.  
Offenders must contact program within one month of receiving citation and provide verification.  
Offender is assigned to a group by county and is registered for [Car Seat Basics](#).

#### Funding

Car seats for the vouchers are funded through Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ALDECA) and Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT)  
Statute provides for \$15 of every fine to go into a fund for FREE car seats for those in need

#### Mitigation

None currently

#### Future Plans and Challenges

Expand to more counties, especially those with higher citation and warning issuance  
Each county must receive judicial approval

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# Orlando CROP

- Reports for January - March
- Observed April 2025
- Teach May 2025

# St. Lucie County

- Offered by C.O.R.E.
- Bi-Monthly In Person
- Certificate Provided to Attendee
- Notification Sent to Clerk of Courts



# Tampa Police Department

- Cpl Jacob Gonzalez and Melissa Turner
- Law Enforcement Education
- Buy-in from Judicial Partner
- Car Seat Check with CPST
  - Car Seat Distribution if Needed
- Dismissal sent by TPD to Clerk of Courts

# Clay County - Pilot

- Liaise with Local Police Department Contact
  - Raise Awareness for Diversion Program
  - Engage Judiciary Partner
- Use Model Program for Implementation
- Provide Diversion Class Virtually

# Next Steps

- Create Awareness Flyer for LE
  - Proper Car Seat Use Awareness
  - Importance of Citing to Increase Public Awareness
- Create Diversion Class Flyer for LE
  - Provide with Citation to Offender
- Provide Diversion Class Virtually



# Contact

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