

Statewide Strategies for Supporting an Aging Population

# New Mexico Older Driver Program

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## NHTSA Call to Action

- NHTSA prioritized older drivers during FY 2014
- NMDOT accepted program proposal for FY 2015
- Program development began in October 2014



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## Program Goal

- Keep people driving as long as they can do it safely
- Facilitate adaptations to extend that period
- NOT define an imaginary age for driving restrictions or cessation
- NOT make the program seem punitive



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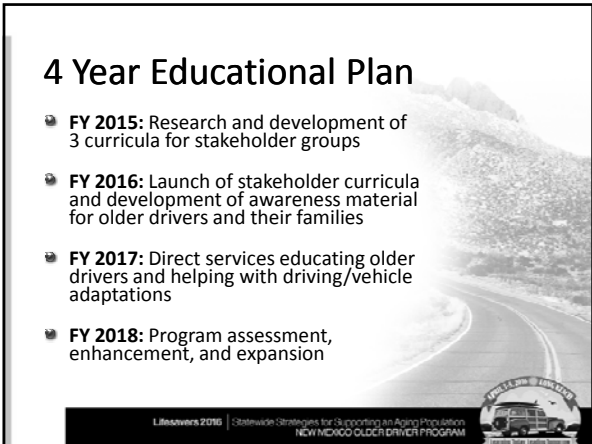
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## 4 Year Educational Plan

- FY 2015:** Research and development of 3 curricula for stakeholder groups
- FY 2016:** Launch of stakeholder curricula and development of awareness material for older drivers and their families
- FY 2017:** Direct services educating older drivers and helping with driving/vehicle adaptations
- FY 2018:** Program assessment, enhancement, and expansion



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## Research & Development: Year 1

- “Older drivers” is actually a misnomer for such programs
- A set of conditions that may impair driving become more common as we age
  - Visual
  - Physical
  - Cognitive
  - Medication




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## Stakeholder Curricula

**Law Enforcement**

Safe at Every Age  
Traffic Safety in an Aging Population



**Healthcare**

Helping Patients Stay Safe  
Assessing & Counseling Older Drivers



**Senior Services**

Healthy, Active and Safe  
Helping Seniors Travel Safely





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## General Curriculum Objectives

- Awareness of issues / conditions
- Awareness of their potential impact on driving
- Awareness of resources and potential partners
- Licensing / renewal policies already in place
- Audience-specific roles and responsibilities




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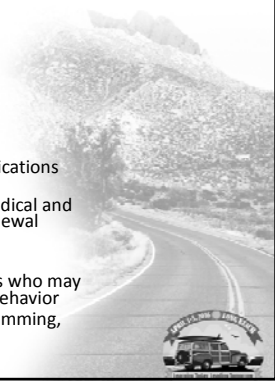
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## Specific Roles

- **Law Enforcement**
  - Enforce traffic laws
  - Create a paper trail
  - Identify potential issues
- **Healthcare**
  - Identify conditions or medications that may affect driving
  - Accurately make use of medical and vision forms for license renewal
- **Senior Services**
  - Identify and counsel clients who may exhibit concerning driver behavior
  - Facilitate resources, programming, and partnerships




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## Curriculum Development: Pilots

- **Pilot 1: June 2015**
  - developer
- **Pilot 2: August 2015**
  - trainer with only the training material
- **Pilot 3: September 2015**
  - trainers with only the revised material
- **Trainers: January 2016**
  - more comprehensive




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### Identifying and Training the Trainers

- Standardized curricula mean more consistency and accuracy
- Higher level awareness of issues and conditions
- Familiarity with program, resources, and expectations



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### Implementation of Phase 1

- Cold calling stakeholders
- Awareness of issues
- Awareness of program
- Awareness of sponsors
- Awareness of role(s)
- Timing of courses

*Much like CPS in mid-1990s*

#### ODP TALKING POINTS 5-17-2015

**Problem Solving:**  
 • How do we address the issue?  
 • What are the barriers to success?  
 • How do we overcome these barriers?

**Program Overview:**  
 • What is the program's purpose?  
 • What are the program's goals?  
 • How do we measure success?

**Implementation:**  
 • How do we get started?  
 • What resources do we need?  
 • How do we train the trainers?

**Conclusion:**  
 • What are the next steps?  
 • How do we stay motivated?

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### Finding the "Hook"

- Personal experience as an older driver or with an older driver
- Professional experience with older driver patients, clients, citizens
- Roles and expectations that already exist
- Basic statistics



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## Law Enforcement Participation

- Necessary information
- Most LE not aware of resources
- More receptive to trainer that has LE experience



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## Healthcare Provider Participation

- Many providers are aware of current forms but desire to have additional resources
- Identifying a group and a champion
- Adapting schedules and course times



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## Senior Service Provider Participation

- SS providers have a closer relationship with senior driver
- Working with an organization
- Complementary not competitive



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## Working with License Authority

- Programming awareness
- Partnering for effectiveness
- Streamlining processes
- Promoting awareness and material




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## Expanding Regionally

- Overall frequency goals
- Urban areas first
- Rural areas




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## Next Steps

- Public informational brochure and dissemination
- Website content, links, and promotion
- Additional staff training (NHTSA, Carfit, AARP, etc.)
- Direct services planning




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## Questions?

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