

TBCEF Awarded U.S. Department of Education Grant

Major federal grant drives new Texas school bicycle safety program. Thousands of students and teachers to gain health and safety awareness.

The Texas Bicycle Coalition is honored to announce that it has received a three-year \$1.5 million "Safe Routes to School Program" grant, funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education, through the Carol M. White Physical Education Program.

The grant will help launch a massive bicycle safety, physical activity, and health awareness program, aimed at tens of thousands of elementary school students in North and West Texas.

The grant includes the coalition's award-winning "SuperCyclist Curriculum 2.0" bicycle and pedestrian safety education course, through the training of 750 teachers - potentially reaching 38,000 fourth- and fifth-grade students in 298 schools.

The second major component consists of **encouraging children to bike and walk to school**, contributing to their health, and decreasing traffic congestion near the schools.

In the grant's first year, the Federal government will contribute 88.64 percent, or \$439,053; while the non-government sources, including **United Supermarkets of Lubbock**, will contribute the remaining 11.36 percent, or \$49,895 of the matching fund requirements.

"We are honored to receive this important grant from the DOE Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools," said TBCEF Executive Director Robin Stallings. *"We look forward to meeting the challenge of ensuring that Texas children are strong, healthy and, above all, safe."*

Stallings said his organization received vital support in obtaining the grant and pledges of continued collaboration from its partners in the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (TAHPERD); the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association, (TEPSA); Texas Association of Community Schools (TACS) and the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers (PTA).

He added that a number of bicycle shops have already contributed to the effort, including: **Hill's Sport Shop** in Amarillo; **Texoma Cycling** in Wichita Falls; **Adventure Sport** in Lubbock; and **Mad Duck Adventure Sports** in Grapevine.

Cities to benefit from the program include Abilene, Amarillo, Borger, Brownfield, Burkburnett, Canyon, Childress, Colleyville, Dalhart, Dumas, Fort Worth, Graham, Lamesa, Levelland, Littlefield, Lubbock, McKinney, Muleshoe, Pampa, Perryton, Plainview, Post, Quanah, Slaton, Snyder, Vernon and Wichita Falls.

Linda Armstrong, mother of six-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong, and spokesperson for the coalition, says, *"I have championed 'Safe Routes to School' in Texas and nationally, because I believe it can make a big difference in the lives, health and safety of our children."*

For more information about the grant or other coalition programs, please contact TBCEF Executive Director Robin Stallings at 512-694-9158.