

Nonprofit Organization Grants:

Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety
Recreational Boating Safety

Federal Grant Title:	National Non-Profit Organization Grant Program
Federal Agency:	United States Coast Guard
Funding Opportunity Number:	DHS-USCG-2022-001
Type of Funding:	Cooperative Agreement
CFDA Numbers:	97.012
CFDA Descriptions:	Boating Safety Financial Assistance

Grantee: National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)
Grant Number: 70Z02322MO0005083
Grant Title: Boating Under the Influence Detection and Enforcement Training
Period of Performance: 3 year grant

Award Amount: \$100,000.00

Summary:

NASBLA is seeking grant assistance to conduct a series of training courses to combat boating under the influence of alcohol (BUI) and drugs (BUI-D). Specifically, NASBLA requests funding to conduct Boating Under the Influence Train-the-Trainer courses and Boating Under the Influence Instructor Workshop. These courses will directly address Area of Interest 5, Boating Under the Influence (BUI) of Alcohol and Dangerous Drugs Detection and Enforcement Courses.

NASBLA's efforts to fight BUI continue to have a positive effect on alcohol-related fatalities. The average percentage of fatalities related to alcohol from 2000 to 2003 was 33.75%. NASBLA was awarded the first BUI courses grant in 2004 and conducted the first three BUI courses that year, and over the next four years, the fatalities percentage dropped to 20.75%. NASBLA has continued to conduct the BUI courses with grant assistance every year since then. In 2009 NASBLA initiated Operation Dry Water, after which alcohol-related fatalities dropped to 17%. The latest Coast Guard statistics show that alcohol is still the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; it was listed as a leading factor in 18% of deaths in 2020.

NASBLA is leading the fight against BUI on several fronts. NASBLA has conducted BUI courses in 42 U.S. states and territories. As a result, NASBLA has trained over 494 BUI Instructors and 2,155 officers in the BUI Seated Battery and NASBLA-trained instructors have taught 1,146 students.

In 2010 NASBLA completed the Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) Validation Study, providing officers in the field with a validated battery of tests that can be conducted in the seated position. In 2014, NASBLA completed the first year of a multi-year field study to further validate the new testing standards. In 2020, NASBLA completed development of the Advanced BUI Training program, with emphasis on the detection of cannabis and other recreational drugs.

All of these efforts support NASBLA's belief that the best way to reduce boating under the influence is to strengthen law enforcement capabilities on the water. With saturation patrols and alcohol checkpoints, federal, state and local marine patrol officers need more and better training and NASBLA has a proven record of accomplishment in meeting those training needs. With the validated seated battery of Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, the demand for instructor training has grown even more. As the result of consultation with the states through the association's Enforcement & Training Committee, NASBLA maintains there is no greater return on the investment of scarce grant resources or better potential for saving more lives than through the support of this BUI detection and enforcement training program.

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