

State Car Seat Grant Roll Out: FY 2025 - 2026

Purpose

The Iowa Car Seat Grant is funded by the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau and project oversight is provided by the State Child Passenger Safety Coordinator. The awarded funds are to be expended throughout the federal fiscal year (October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026). The purpose of the State Car Seat Grant is to help fill a gap, providing no-cost child restraint systems to underserved and at-risk child passengers, once all other options have been exhausted. *This grant supports conventional AND adaptive car seat needs.*

Background

According to submitted reports for fiscal year 2025 (Oct. 1, 2024 – Sept. 30, 2025), **583 state-funded car seats have been distributed to qualifying Iowa families. The statewide inventory of car seats indicate that 297 state car seats and booster seats remain available for families in 44 counties. [Map on Page 3.](#)**

- 12 Infant Carriers (none purchased during FY 25)
- 93 Convertibles
- 67 Combinations
- 90 High Back Booster Seats
- 35 No Back Booster Seats

Our goal is to utilize and distribute existing car seats to ensure none are expiring and families receiving seats still have plenty of time before the seat expires when they receive it.

Technicians that request and receive an inventory of seats from the state program are REQUIRED to report on their CPS activities monthly per Federal requirements.

Resources to Consider

Please note some resources to think about before going straight to a no-cost state car seat or booster seat:

- If the caregiver is pregnant/expecting and they are on **Medicaid** there are programs to get a no-cost car seat through insurance that we would want them to utilize. This option is most appropriate for caregivers in their first trimester.
 - Molina
 - Iowa Total Care
- **Agency buy in!** You are a huge asset to your agency, and we encourage you to work with your leadership teams and spread the word about what you are doing and how your agency can support your CPST work along with state funds. Your agency is lucky to have you as a car seat technician and should help support you by providing. **Hospitals especially should be working with their leadership to provide car seats in-house.** Talk with leadership, your foundation team, and other community partners for funding.
- Central Iowa: **The Hannah Geneser Safety Store** offers car seats below retail price and are tax exempt: Safety Store ([Safety Store](#))
 - Shipping is NOT available.

- **The University of Iowa Safety Store** offers car seats below retail price and are tax exempt: Travel Safety ([Travel Safety](#))
 - Shipping is available anywhere in the US!

Details for FY 2025 – 2026

For the fiscal year 2025 – 2026, a request for seats form will be sent to all Iowa technicians and instructors. The request form will be distributed prior to the start of each federal quarter (October, January, April, July). Our goal is to allocate a maximum amount of grant funds per quarter, prioritize submitted seat request forms based off current and accurate inventories statewide, and successfully fund qualifying requests for all four quarters of the fiscal year.

Iowa is fortunate to have an extremely robust child passenger safety program that includes technician access to child restraints. The submitted seat request forms will be evaluated and approved or denied based on need justification and current county seat inventory. In the event it is determined that an adequate inventory of state seats already exists in your county, you'll be re-directed to work with the technician managing that county inventory. If the reviewed seat request fills an access gap, the seats will be ordered and shipped directly to the requesting technician.

By filling out the form and requesting state car seats you are agreeing to:

- **Fill out the monthly reporting survey**
- **Acknowledge that the seats you are about to receive are property of the state**
- **Agree to house the inventory**
- **Report accordingly**
- **Understand that fellow technicians may be re-directed by the State Child Passenger Safety Coordinator, to access a seat(s) for distribution from your inventory**
- **Utilize the National Digital Check Form during car seat appointments ([here is the form to use](#))**
- **Failure to comply with monthly reporting requirements and/or seat transfer requests to other technicians may (or will) result in:**
 - **The inventory being reclaimed by the State Child Passenger Safety program.**
 - **Denial of future state car seat requests submitted by that CPST.**

Quarterly Request Forms will be sent via email to CPST/CPSTIs.

Please advocate for Child Passenger Safety in your community and to your agency. Their buy-in and support will help us to be able to fill the immense need for child restraints all around Iowa.

Thank you for all the work you do!

Riley Maher, CPSTI

Iowa State Child Passenger Safety Coordinator
Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician and Instructor

