**2014 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Final Report**

**CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:** DTPH5614GPPS17

**Project Title:** Public Utilities Commission of Nevada State Damage Prevention Grant

**Date Submitted:** September 30, 2015

**Submitted by:** Dawn Rivard, Consumer Outreach Director

**Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement**

*[Cut and paste from Article II, Section 2.03 of your agreement.]*

* Support Public Awareness and Stakeholder Education

**Workscope**

*[Cut and paste from Article III. Workscope of your agreement.]*

* **Element 5 (Public Education):** A process for fostering and ensuring active participation by all stakeholders in public education for damage prevention activities.

**Accomplishments for the grant period (Item 1 under Agreement Article IX, Section 9.02 Final Report: “A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period.”)**

*[How did you progress on each of the items/elements provided in the “Specific Objectives” and “Workscope”? How did your progress compare with established objectives? Start with an overall description followed by item-by-item or element-by-element detail if possible.]*

The PUCN proposed to use funds from this grant to enhance homeowner knowledge of 811 through four initiatives/activities. Our progress with these initiatives is as follows.

1. **Interactive Portable Dig Boxes:** The PUCN contracted a tradeshow display vendor to construct two interactive dig boxes to demonstrate why it’s important to call 811 before beginning any digging project. Apple Rock delivered the boxes to the PUCN on April 24, 2015.
2. **Home Shows & Community Events:** During the grant period, the PUCN attended 14 community events and home shows at various locations across Nevada to discuss 811 and utility regulation with consumers. SDP grant funds paid for booth space at nine of the home shows and community events (there was no admission fee for the other 5 events). Below is a list of events attended during the grant period.
   1. Beckley Elementary School Science Fair, Jan. 15, Las Vegas
   2. Winter Home Improvement & Outdoor Living Expo, Jan. 23 – 25, Las Vegas
   3. Home Expo Las Vegas, Feb. 27 – Mar. 1, Las Vegas
   4. Batterman Elementary School Career Fair, Mar. 11, Las Vegas
   5. Reno Home & Garden Show, Mar. 20 – 22, Reno
   6. Spring Home Improvement & Outdoor Living Expo, Mar. 27 – 29, Las Vegas
   7. Solar NV Presentation, Mar. 16, Las Vegas
   8. National Lineman Appreciation Day, April 18, Las Vegas
   9. GREENFest, Apr. 25, Las Vegas
   10. Las Vegas Science & Technology Festival, May 2, Las Vegas
   11. Elko Home & Business Expo, May 9 – 10, Elko
   12. American Patriot Fest, May 16, North Las Vegas
   13. MGM Teacher Appreciation Day, Aug. 13, Las Vegas
   14. Fall Home Improvement & Backyard Expo, Sept. 11 – 13, Las Vegas
3. **Homeowner’s Guide to Safe Digging:** To explain the basics of safe digging and 811, the PUCN used SDP grant funds to develop a brochure titled, “Homeowner’s Guide to Safe Digging in Nevada.” The PUCN printed 5,000 English and 5,000 Spanish copies. Grant funds were also used for the translation of the brochure from English to Spanish. In addition to distributing the brochure at home shows and community events, the home improvement and gardening stores listed below have also agreed to display the brochures within their stores. Grant funds were used to purchase cardboard brochure holders customized with the 811 logo. The PUCN mailed each store below two brochure holders and approximately 75 English and 75 Spanish brochures. Grant funds were also used to pay for shipping costs to the stores.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Store Name** | **Address** | **City** | **State** | **ZIP** |
| GreenHouse Garden Center | 2450 S. Curry St. | Carson city | NV | 89703 |
| Ace Hardware | 263 Spring Valley Pkwy #K | Spring Creek | NV | 89815 |
| Ace Hardware | 1406 Industrial Way | Gardnerville | NV | 89410 |
| Ace Hardware | 930 W. Winnemucca Blvd. | Winnemucca | NV | 89445 |
| Carter Bros Ace Hardware | 1215 S. Virginia St. | Reno | NV | 89502 |
| Ace Shopper Stopper | 541 Nevada Hwy | Boulder City | NV | 89005 |
| Star Nursery | 2600 W. Ann Road | North Las Vegas | NV | 89031 |
| Star Nursery | 7330 W. Cheyenne Ave. | Las Vegas | NV | 89129 |
| Star Nursery | 8170 W. Charleston Blvd. | Las Vegas | NV | 89117 |
| Star Nursery | 9480 W. Tropicana Ave. | Las Vegas | NV | 89147 |
| Star Nursery | 5340 Boulder Highway | Las Vegas | NV | 89122 |
| Star Nursery | 8725 S. Eastern Ave. | Las Vegas | NV | 89123 |
| Star Nursery | 5380 Blue Diamond Road | Las Vegas | NV | 89139 |
| Star Nursery | 911 Buol Road | Pahrump | NV | 89048 |
| Star Nursery | 549 Commerce Circle | Mesquite | NV | 89027 |

1. **Educational Items:** To reinforce the safe digging message at home shows and community events, the PUCN used SDP grant funds to purchase: 1,000 yellow and 1,000 pink plastic hard hats for children; 2,000 plastic bags imprinted with the 811 and PUCN logos; and 811 and PUCN-logo stickers to affix to the hats for messaging purposes. The hats proved to be very popular at events. Kids would see other kids wearing the hats at events and seek out our booth to get a hat of their own!

**Quantifiable Metrics/Measures of Effectiveness (Item 2 under Article IX, Section 9.02 Final Report: “Where the output of the project can be quantified, a computation of the cost per unit of output.”)**

*[This may be difficult to explain for every grant project, but we’re trying to get a sense of how effective this grant work has been in improving your damage prevention program. If your grant is more data oriented, you likely had some sort of metrics in mind to improve upon. If so, what were those metrics and how does the data look now compared to when the program started? If you’re doing something along the lines of enforcement that involves incident review, how many cases have you been able to review/close and/or fines collected compared to before the grant work? If you are working on something more along the lines of public awareness, how many stakeholders have you been able to reach? Even if you don’t have the metrics fully defined, put whatever you can here.]*

The PUCN proposed to use SDP grant monies for the sole purpose of addressing Element 5, public education. During the grant period, PUCN staff was able to reach approximately 1,250 Nevadans through direct, face-to-face contact at home shows and community events. On average, staff speaks directly to 50 people per day at an event based on actual counts of one-on-one engagement. Eight of the events PUCN staff participated in during the grant period were one-day events; five were two-day events; one was a two-day event, for a total of 25 days and 1250 people reached. At these events, the PUCN also distributed 6,002 hard hats, 811 plastic bags and Homeowner’s Guides to Safe Digging brochures.

**Issues, Problems or Challenges (Item 3 under Article IX, Section 9.02 Final Report: “The reasons for slippage if established objectives were not met.”)**

*[If the project has successfully concluded on schedule, simply state that there are no issues, problems or challenge to report. If there have been delays for any reason, explain what they are and how they have impacted the grant work. For instance, with some States, even after an agreement is in place, it has to be sent back to the Governor’s office for approval, which takes more time than originally anticipated. Even if work began immediately after the agreement was in place, other delays could have been caused by personnel changes or issues that arose as the project progressed. ]*

The PUCN encountered a delay in the production of the two interactive dig boxes that were to be the cornerstone of this agency’s SDP grant program. The vendor hired to produce the dig boxes experienced production problems and did not deliver the boxes until late April 2015.

The PUCN debuted one of the boxes at the May 2, 2015, Las Vegas Science & Technology Festival. The box proved to be a flop and was actually a safety hazard. Following this event, the PUCN’s legal staff sent the vendor a demand letter requesting several elements on both boxes be fixed before payment would be remitted. The vendor did not finish repairing the boxes until late August 2015, which did not allow for the boxes display or usage at home shows and community events during the grant period.

**Financial Status Report**

*[Per the instructions in Article IX, Section 9.04 of your agreement (included below), the financial status report should be submitted with this final report to the Agreement Administrator (AA) and the Agreement Officer’s Representative (AOR). Please see instructions below and include supporting documentation such as invoices, receipts, spreadsheets, etc. However, if there are any issues with the Financial Status Report or additional explanation is needed, please provide that information here. If there are any delays for whatever reasons, these should be communicated to the AA and AOR in advance.*

*From Article IX, Section 9.04 of your agreement: “At the end of the grant period, the Recipient must submit a Final Federal Financial Report, Standard Form 425 (SF-425), to report the status of all funds. In addition to the SF-425, the Recipient should provide the breakdown of costs for each object class category (Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Contractual, Other, and Indirect Charges). The Final Financial Status Report must be submitted to the AOR and the AA via e-mail, no later than 90 days after the grant period end date (see Section 1.03). If possible this report should be submitted, along with the Final Report, within 30 days after the grant period end date.”]*

The PUCN’s final financial report (Form SF-425) will be sent as a separate attachment to the AA and AOTR, including a spreadsheet breakdown of expenditures for each object class category.

**Requests of the AOR and/or PHMSA**

*[In most cases, any questions or actions requested of the AOR and PHMSA (such as grant modifications) should have been addressed in advance of filing the report. If this is the case, simply state “No actions requested at this time” or explain any actions that are currently in process. However, if something has come up recently, or if you haven’t been able to discuss with the AOR yet, please describe here.]*

No requests at this time.