practices that can lead to increased highway safety.

An effective child safety seat program can reach and have a major positive impact on large numbers of children, as well as their families. To be most effective, however, the program must ensure that seats are distributed primarily to the populations most at risk, including underserved low income and special needs families. If programs do not target these populations, the seats could be provided instead to families that could otherwise afford to purchase them, with little net benefit.

List of Qualified Organizations

The agreement between GM and DOT provides:

DOT shall identify, on an ongoing basis so as to facilitate timely GM donations, qualified organizations which DOT in its sole discretion deems appropriate to receive donations from GM for the purchase and distribution of child safety seats. GM, in its sole discretion, shall select from the list of qualified organizations provided by DOT, the organization(s) to which it will donate funds, and shall decide the exact amount of funds that each such organization will receive.

The agreement provides further that any organization that is interested in being identified as a "qualified organization" must certify to DOT in writing that it will meet a number of criteria set forth in the agreement.

Today's notice describes the criteria that an organization must meet and the information it must submit with its certification, to be identified as a "qualified organization." Certifications must be received no later than 30 days after the date of publication of today's notice in the Federal Register. When NHTSA completes its review of the certifications, it will prepare a list of organizations it has identified as qualified and appropriate to receive donations for the purchase and distribution of child safety seats. NHTSA will provide the list to GM and place it in the public docket.

This list of organizations will be used by GM during the first and second quarters of the first year after the date of the agreement, during which time GM will donate a total of approximately \$2 million for the purchase and distribution of child safety seats.

Within six months (or less) from the date of publication of today's notice, NHTSA plans to publish a second notice in the **Federal Register** requesting certifications from organizations that wish to receive donations after the second quarter. Any organization that wishes to be included on the second list, whether or not the organization was included on the first

list, must submit a certification. NHTSA reserves the right to request at that time the submission of additional information, not identified in today's **Federal Register** notice, from organizations seeking to be included on the second list.

Based on its review of the certifications received in response to the second **Federal Register** notice, NHTSA will prepare a revised list of organizations that have been identified as qualified and appropriate to receive future donations from GM. (As explained earlier, GM will donate approximately \$1 million in the third quarter of the first year after the date of the agreement, \$1 million in the fourth quarter, and a total of \$4 million during the following four-year period.)

NHTSA may, from time to time, publish additional notices requesting certifications and prepare additional revised lists of qualified organizations, if it determines it is appropriate to do so.

Certification Criteria

In accordance with the agreement, in order to be identified as a "qualified organization," an organization must certify in writing that it shall meet eleven separate criteria. Each of these criteria is described below:

(1) Work through affiliates

The organization must certify in writing that it shall:

work, through its state or local affiliates, with agencies such as children's hospitals and health agencies to identify families who could not otherwise afford seats or who have special needs

Organizations must have established and effective affiliate relationships and on-going collaboration with other appropriate agencies or organizations necessary to carry out the effort. Organizations can satisfy this criterion by showing that they work either through their state or local affiliates (i.e., units or chapters specifically organized to carry out the organization's mission), or with other child safety-related agencies or organizations, such as children's hospitals or fire and rescue agencies.

Organizations may have either a builtin network or collaborative access to such a network. The network must enable the organization to identify families of target populations who have not been reached through traditional channels, including families who could not otherwise afford seats or who have special needs, and to distribute seats and provide education to these families.

Organizations must submit information regarding their structure

and a designation of geographic locations of state and local affiliates that are expected to be involved in the effort. Organizations must also submit information regarding the organizations and agencies with which they will be affiliated for purposes of this program.

(2) Existing program or trained staff

The organization must certify in writing that it shall:

have an existing loaner or give-away child safety seat program or have staff trained in child passenger safety issues

Organizations must have experience, either directly or through their affiliates, with a loaner or give-away program or staff trained in child passenger safety or related issues. The experience or training is necessary to ensure that organizations, or their affiliates, are able to operate such programs, and to meet the deadlines and requirements established in the agreement for distributing seats and providing education.

Organizations must describe their existing loaner or give-away child safety seat programs and their experience in providing education on the use of child safety seats or on other related public health issues. They must identify the number of current trained staff and provide a description of training conducted or taken by their staff and the dates of last training. Organizations may also describe existing loaner or giveaway programs, experience in providing education and provide the training information described above for agencies or organizations with which they have collaborative relationships. (3) Low-income or special needs across broad geographic area

The organization must certify in writing that it shall:

distribute the seats to low-income families and/or families with special needs across a broad geographical area throughout the United States

The intent of this provision is to assure that underserved children from culturally diverse populations throughout the United States receive the benefits of the program. Qualified organizations need not distribute seats in every state. However, they must have a program that is national in scope and reaches their target populations throughout the United States. Organizations must submit their mission statements, a description of the method they will use to identify underserved low income or special needs families, and a list of the geographic locations that would be targeted for receipt of the seats. They must demonstrate the ability to identify underserved low income and special