



# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Colonel Gary T. Settle  
Superintendent

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

Lt. Colonel Kirk S. Marlowe  
Deputy Superintendent

(804) 674-2000

P. O. Box 27472, Richmond, VA 23261-7472

June 9, 2023

Dear Chief/Sheriff

Last year, I approved the first ever allocation of funds to reimburse Virginia law enforcement agencies for the cost of purchasing equipment to be used for the investigation and/or prevention of the theft of vehicles and vehicle parts. This initiative proved to be very successful as more than fifty (50) agencies were able to take advantage of the funding. While much effort and many positive results have been achieved, the theft of motor vehicles and vehicle parts in Virginia increased by nearly 23 percent in 2022.

For these reasons, I am pleased to announce that beginning July 1, 2023, the Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) Program is again allocating funds to provide financial support to state and local law enforcement agencies. Financial support of up to **\$12,500** will be awarded to reimburse agencies for the purchase of equipment that will be used for investigating vehicle thefts or promoting the prevention of vehicle and vehicle parts theft. To qualify for this funding, an agency must have at least one fulltime investigator whose responsibilities include the investigation of vehicle thefts. **Funding will be allocated on a first come basis.**

To receive this funding, please complete the attached application form and email it to First Sergeant Peter Lazear, HEAT Program Coordinator, at [peter.lazear@vsp.virginia.gov](mailto:peter.lazear@vsp.virginia.gov). The request will be quickly reviewed and you will be notified via email if your request is approved for reimbursement. Once approved and your purchase is completed, please email copies of the payment invoice(s) and receipt(s) to First Sergeant Lazear in the same fashion for reimbursement up to the maximum allowable amount.

**All agencies that were approved for the 2022 funding initiative, must have completed the 2022 reimbursement process prior to applying for the 2023 funding.**

If you desire additional information regarding this funding opportunity or the HEAT Program, please contact First Sergeant Lazear or Lieutenant David Beckner at (804) 674-2586 or [david.beckner@vsp.virginia.gov](mailto:david.beckner@vsp.virginia.gov).

Your continued support and participation in HEAT initiatives is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary T. Settle".

Superintendent