Module 5: Countermeasure Strategy For Programming Funds

Module Objectives

- Define countermeasure strategies and countermeasures
- Identify resources for countermeasure strategies
- Describe NHTSA's program area assessments
- Identify countermeasure strategies and selection guidelines

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Introduction

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Module 5: Countermeasure Strategy For Programming Funds

Module Objectives

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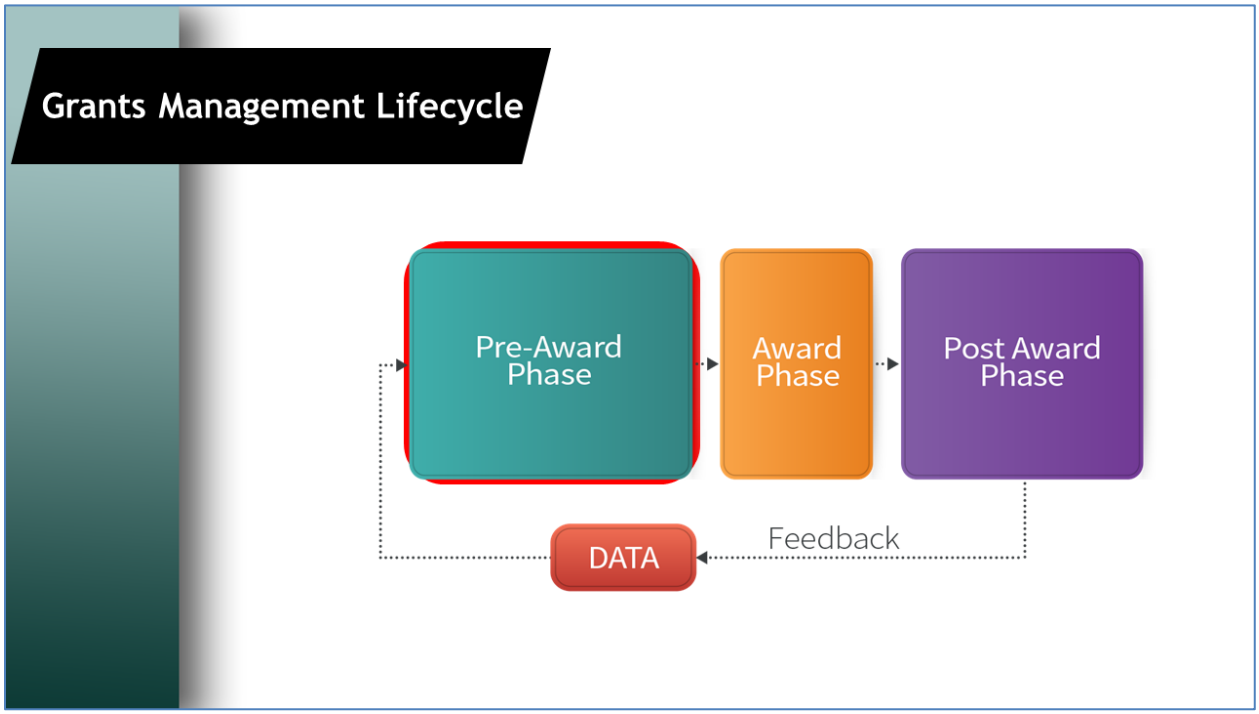
Grants Management Lifecycle



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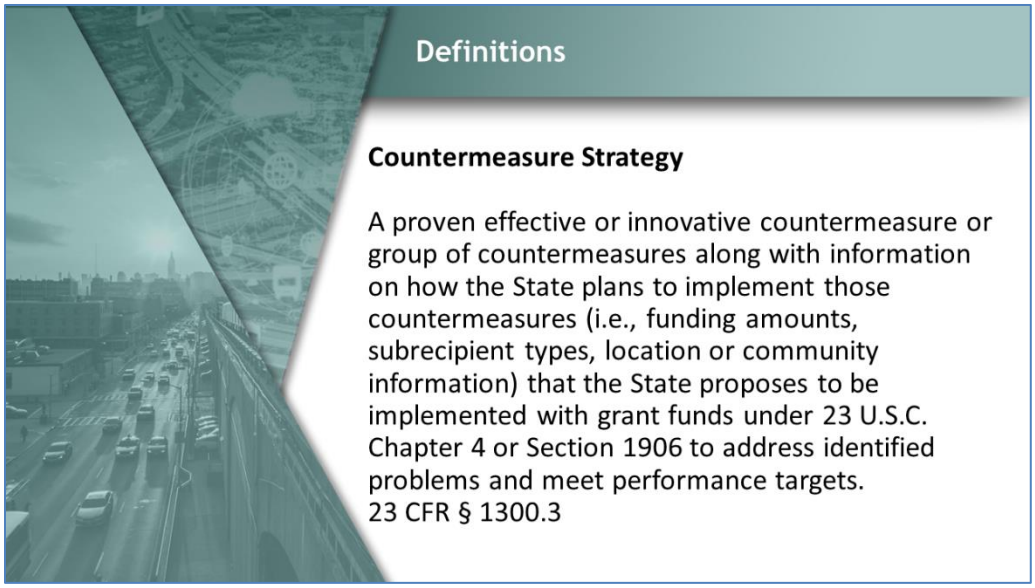
Countermeasure strategies are part of the pre-award process in the Grants Management Lifecycle.



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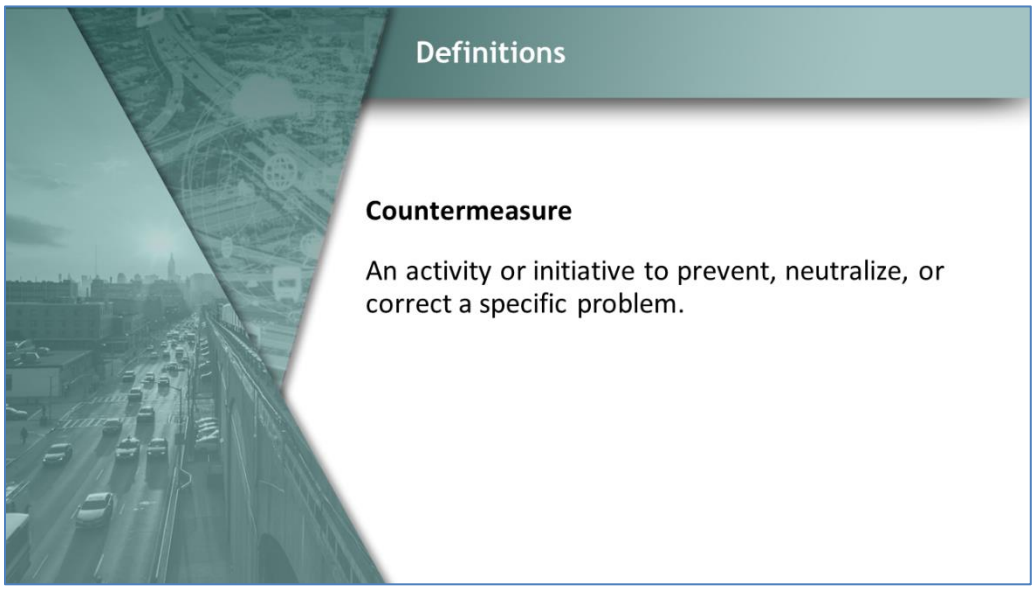

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Now that we have previously identified the problem, the next step would be countermeasure strategy. Let us first define countermeasure strategy and countermeasure.

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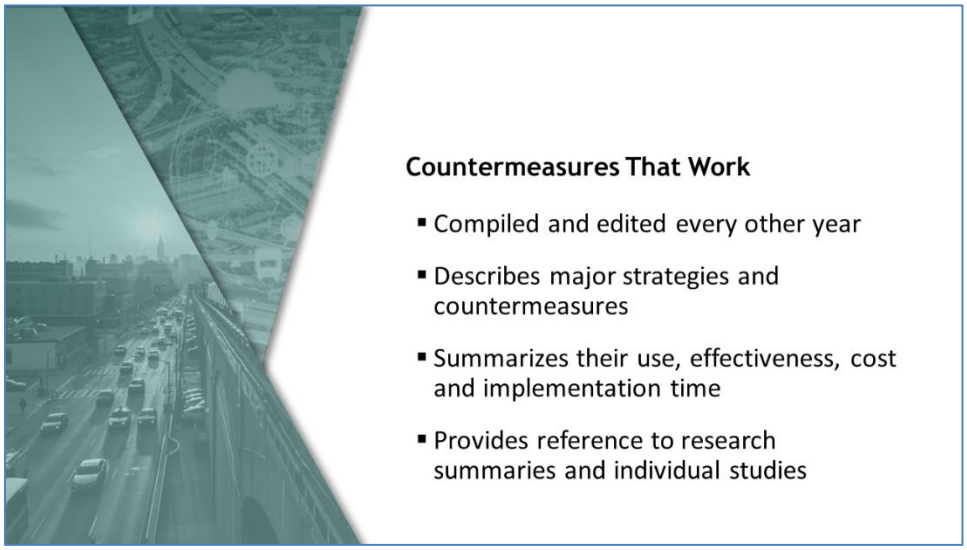
Countermeasure strategy - A proven effective or innovative countermeasure or group of countermeasures along with information on how the State plans to implement those countermeasures (i.e., funding amounts, subrecipient types, location or community information) that the State proposes to be implemented with grant funds under 23 U.S.C. Chapter 4 or Section 1906 to address identified problems and meet performance targets, 23 CFR § 1300.3

Countermeasure - An activity or initiative to prevent, neutralize, or correct a specific problem.

To do this, NHTSA provides several resources for Highway Safety Offices.

Countermeasures That Work



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This guide is a basic reference to assist State Highway Safety Offices (SHSOs) to identify traffic safety countermeasures known to be effective, and containing supplemental evidence-based data to assist States with addressing major highway safety problem areas. The guide serves as a tool, but States should not limit themselves to only using this information to support their programs.

The guide:

- describes major strategies and countermeasures that are relevant to SHSOs;
- summarizes their use, effectiveness, costs, and implementation time; and
- provides references to the most important research summaries and individual studies

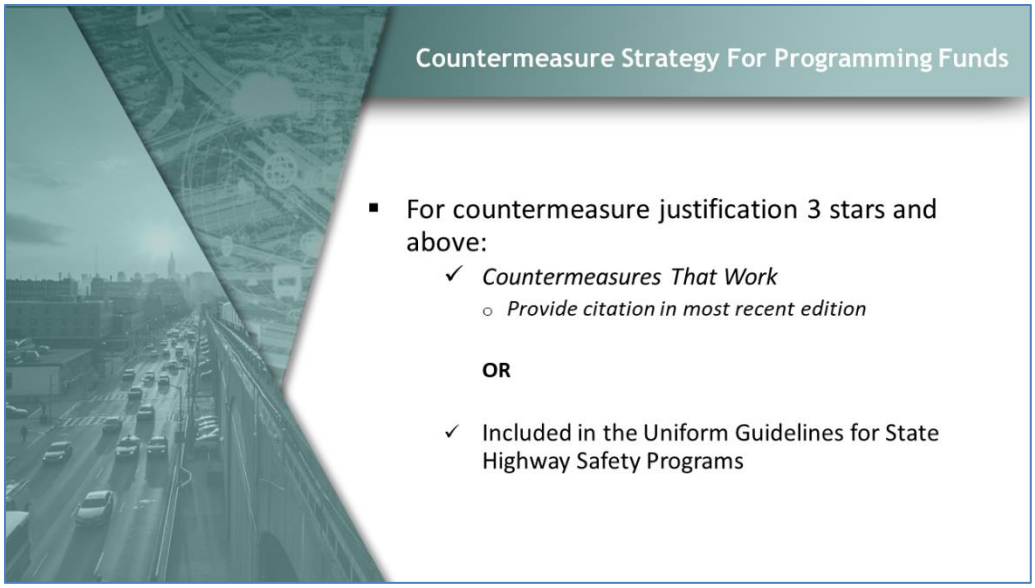
This guide is not intended to be a comprehensive list of countermeasures available for State use or a list of expectations for SHSO implementation. For a description of an optimal State countermeasure program, SHSOs should refer to the *Uniform Guidelines for State Highway Safety Programs*, which delineate the principal components of each of the major program areas.

The *Countermeasures That Work* contains a chapter for each problem area. Each chapter begins with a brief overview of the problem area's size and characteristics, the main countermeasure strategies, a glossary of key terms, and a few general references. Next, a table lists specific countermeasures and summarizes their effectiveness, costs, use, and implementation time.

NOTE: Pay careful attention to the ratings of the countermeasures. Those rated less than three stars will require additional supporting justifications.

Website Resource

RESOURCE: Countermeasures that Work



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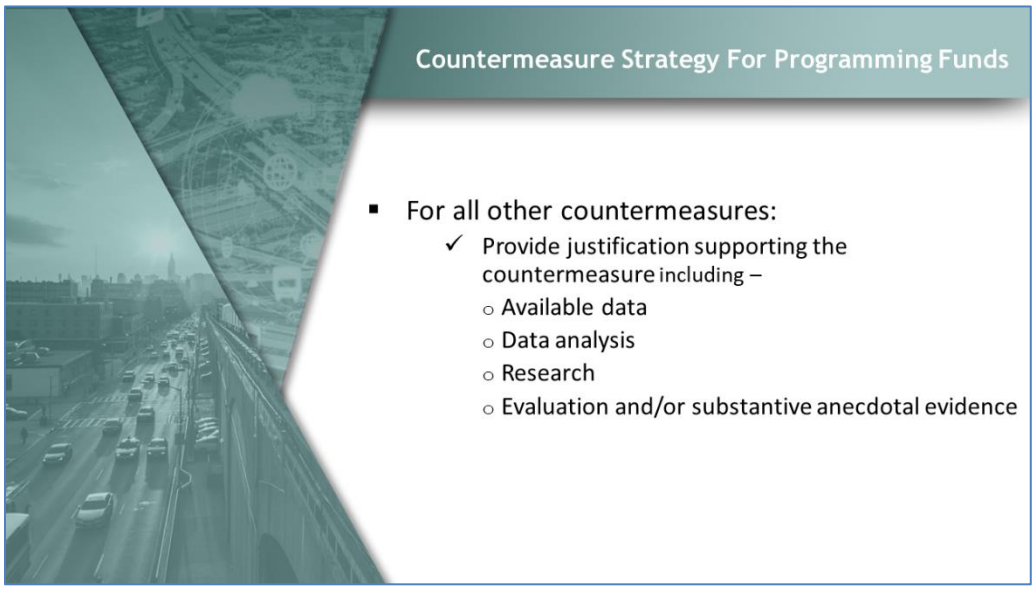

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For 3* or above, cite the *Countermeasures That Work*. For all other countermeasures, include citation to justification supporting the countermeasure strategy, including research, evaluation and/or substantive anecdotal evidence, that supports the potential of the proposed countermeasure.

NHTSA and your Regional office can provide technical assistance when needed.

Countermeasure strategy for programming funds. For each program area identified by the State during the planning process conducted under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, a description of the countermeasure strategies that will guide the State's program implementation and annual project selection in order to achieve specific performance targets described in paragraph (b)(3) of this section, including, at a minimum—

(i) The problem identified during the planning process described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section that the countermeasure strategy addresses and a description of the link between the problem identification and the countermeasure strategy;

(ii) A list of the countermeasures that the State will implement, including—

(A) For countermeasures rated 3 or more stars in *Countermeasures That Work,* recommended in a NHTSA-facilitated program assessment report, or included in the Uniform Guidelines for State Highway Safety Programs, provide the citation to the countermeasure in the most recent edition of *Countermeasures That Work;* or

(B) For all other countermeasures, provide justification supporting the countermeasure, including available data, data analysis, research, evaluation and/or substantive anecdotal evidence, that supports the effectiveness of the proposed countermeasure strategy;

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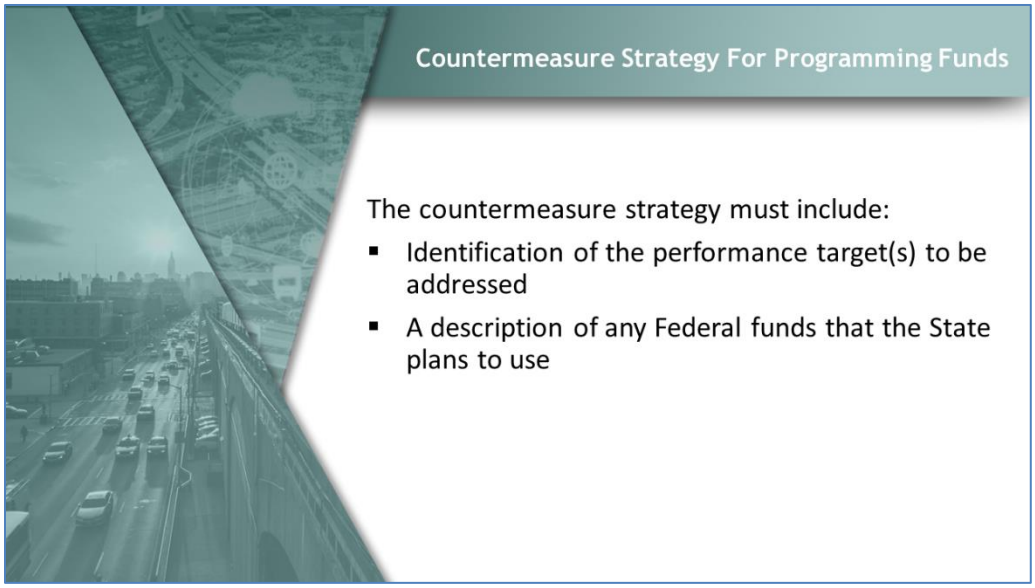

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(iii) Identification of the performance target(s) the countermeasure strategy will address, along with an explanation of the link between the effectiveness of the countermeasure strategy and the performance target;

(iv) A description of any Federal funds that the State plans to use to carry out the countermeasure strategy including, at a minimum, the funding source(s) (e.g., Section 402, Section 405(b), etc.) and an estimated allocation of funds;

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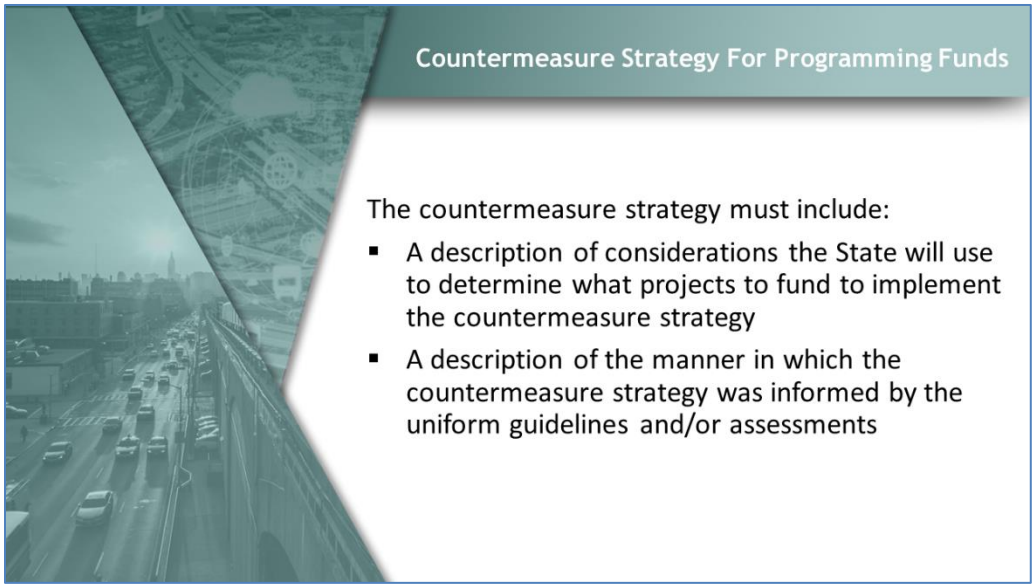

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(v) A description of considerations the State will use to determine what projects to fund to implement the countermeasure strategy, including, as applicable, public engagement, traffic safety data, affected communities, impacted locations, solicitation of proposals; and

(vi) A description of the manner in which the countermeasure strategy was informed by the uniform guidelines issued in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 402(a)(2) and, if applicable, NHTSA-facilitated programmatic assessments.

Website Resource

RESOURCE: 23 CFR § 1300.11(b)(4)

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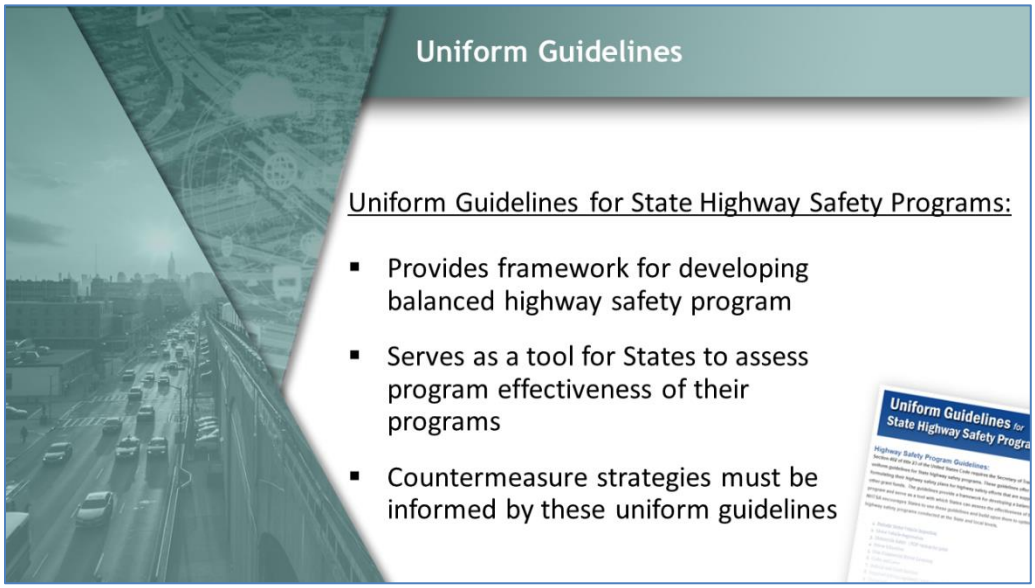
Uniform Guidelines for State Highway Safety Programs



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The first of these resources is the Uniform Guidelines for State Highway Safety Programs.

23 U.S.C 402(a)(2) requires the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate uniform guidelines for State highway safety programs. These guidelines offer direction to States in formulating their highway safety plans for highway safety efforts that are supported with section 402 and other grant funds.

The guidelines:

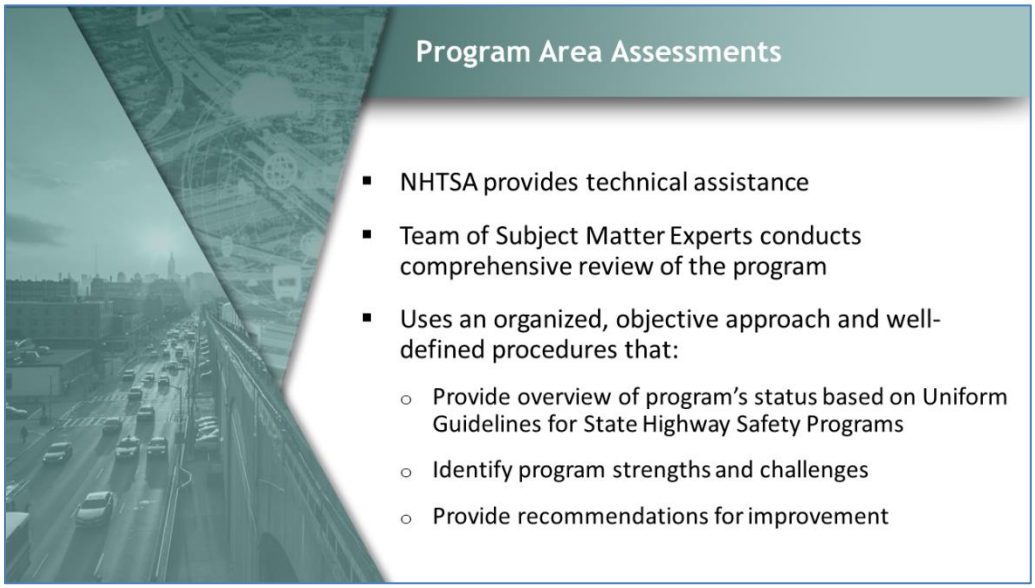
- Provide a framework for developing a balanced highway safety program and
- Serve as a tool with which States can assess the effectiveness of their own programs
- Countermeasure strategies must be informed by these uniform guidelines and, if applicable, NHTSA-facilitated programmatic assessments

Website Resource

RESOURCE: Uniform Guidelines for State Highway Safety Programs

NOTE: TSI offers Virtual Live Courses specific to many of the Uniform Guidelines.

Program Area Assessments



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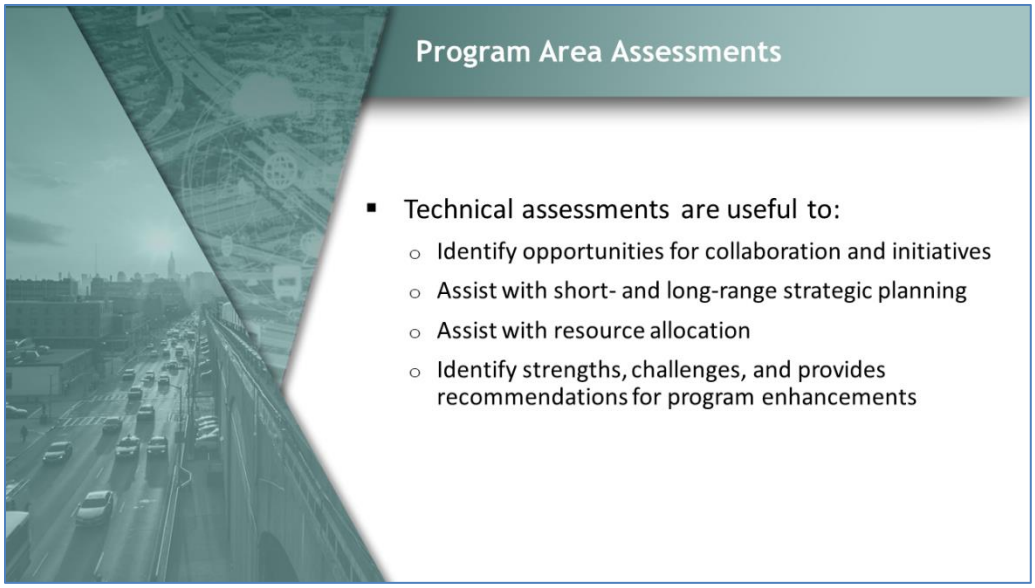
The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Assessment Program provides technical assistance to State Highway Safety Offices, State Emergency Medical Services offices and/or other State agencies. A team of subject matter experts conducts a comprehensive review of the highway safety program using an organized, objective approach and well-defined procedures that:

- Provide an overview of the program's current status based on the Uniform Guidelines for State Highway Safety Programs, or Standards for that specific program area
- Note the program's strengths and challenges, and
- Provide recommendations for improvement relating to the specific program area

The State may also request assistance that addresses additional, unique concerns and may request specialized expertise on the team. For example, an additional team member can be used during Impaired Driving assessments to address Native American/Indigenous/Territorial issues.

Not only does the assessment provide useful recommendations, the dialogue and report are also educational for the State and its highway safety customers.

The technical assessment process is intended to be an open, collegial, constructive and non-punitive process.



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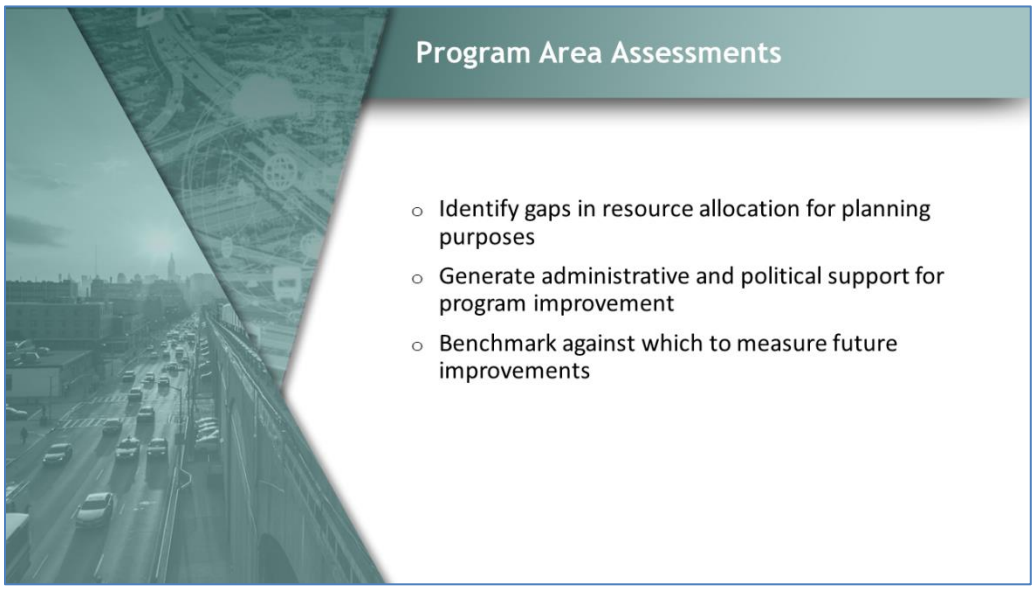

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The technical assessment is useful to the State Highway Safety Office in the following ways:

- Identifies opportunities for collaborative efforts and initiatives amongst highway safety stakeholders
- Assists with short and long-range strategic planning
- Assists with resource allocation
- Identifies strengths, challenges, and provides recommendations for program enhancements

- Identifies gaps in resource allocation for planning purposes
- Generates administrative and political support for program improvement, and
- Serves as a benchmark against which to measure future improvements

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Technical assessments are offered for these program areas:

- Driver's Education
- Emergency Medical Services
- Impaired Driving
- Motorcycle Safety
- Occupant Protection
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing and optional Drug Evaluation and Classification
- State 9-1-1 Programs
- Traffic Records

Module Summary Review

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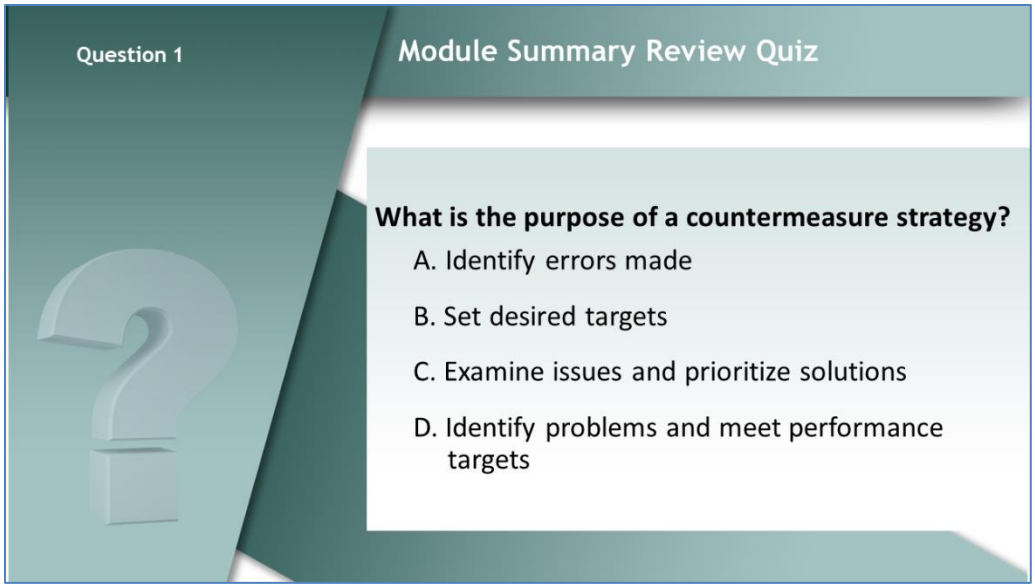
Question 1
Module Summary Review Quiz
What is the purpose of a countermeasure strategy?
A. Identify errors made
B. Set desired targets
C. Examine issues and prioritize solutions
D. Identify problems and meet performance targets

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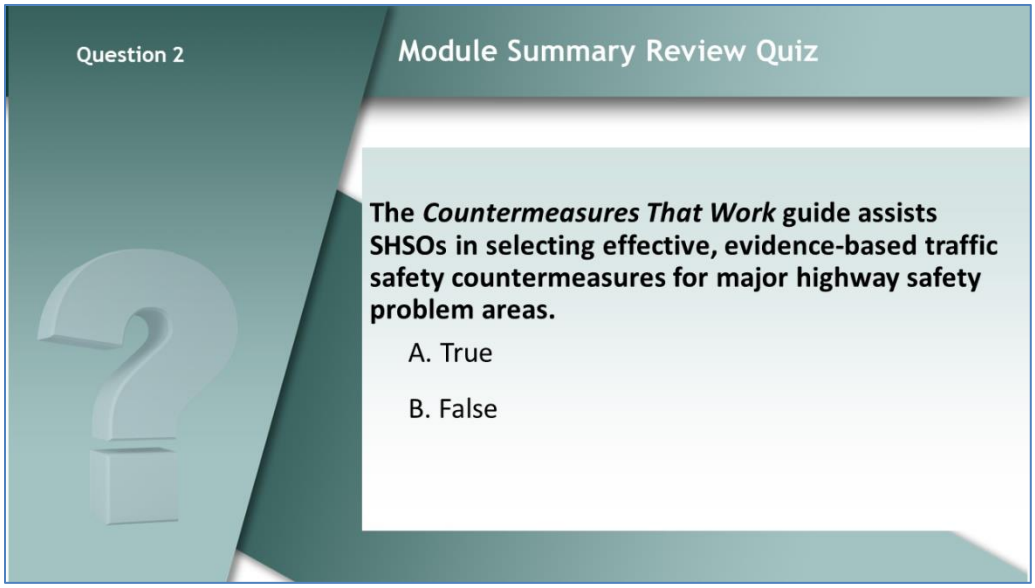
Question 2
Module Summary Review Quiz
The *Countermeasures That Work* guide assists SHSOs in selecting effective, evidence-based traffic safety countermeasures for major highway safety problem areas.
A. True
B. False

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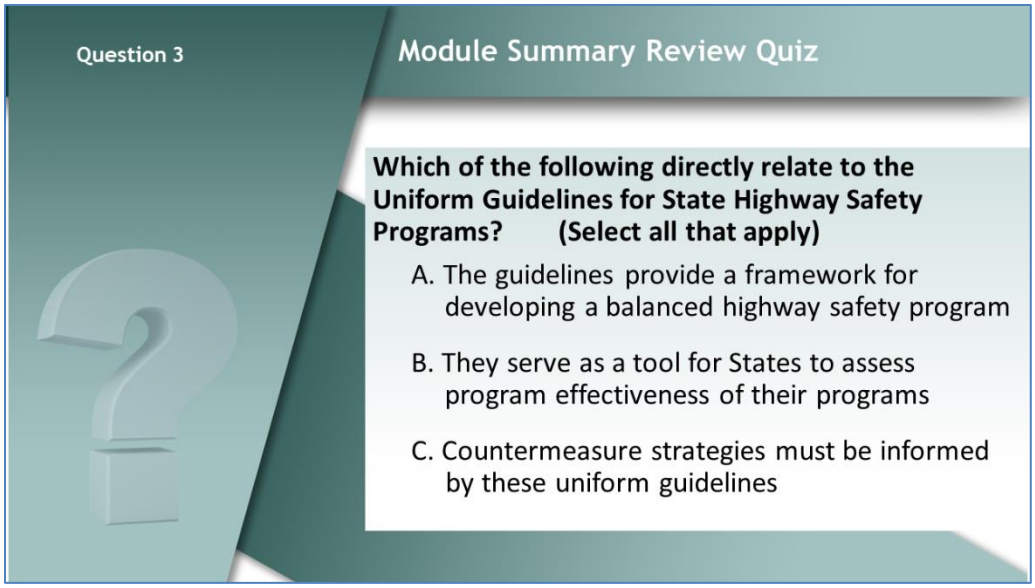
Question 3
Module Summary Review Quiz
Which of the following directly relate to the Uniform Guidelines for State Highway Safety Programs? (Select all that apply)
A. The guidelines provide a framework for developing a balanced highway safety program
B. They serve as a tool for States to assess program effectiveness of their programs
C. Countermeasure strategies must be informed by these uniform guidelines

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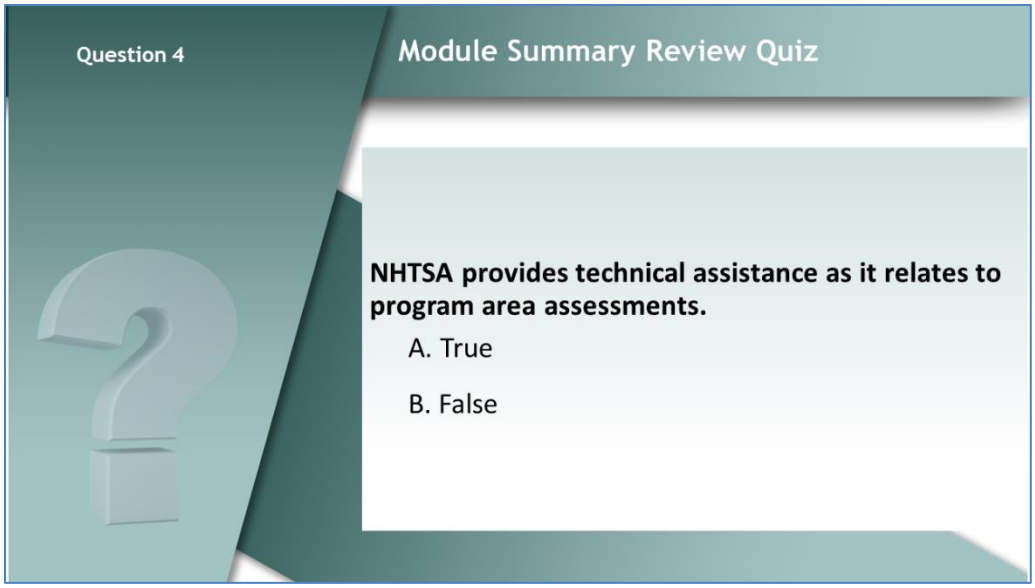
Question 4
Module Summary Review Quiz
NHTSA provides technical assistance as it relates to program area assessments.
A. True
B. False

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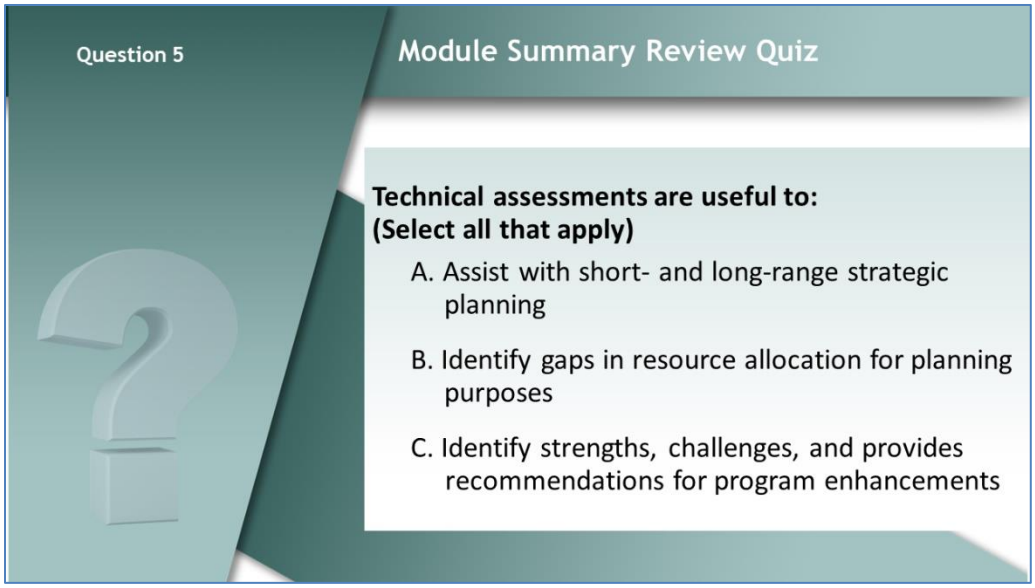
Question 5
Module Summary Review Quiz
Technical assessments are useful to:
(Select all that apply)
A. Assist with short- and long-range strategic planning
B. Identify gaps in resource allocation for planning purposes
C. Identify strengths, challenges, and provides recommendations for program enhancements

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