

VERMONTFY13

School Based Substance Abuse Services

Introduction

In response to Act 63, Section E.313(c), this document outlines the Vermont Department of Health's plan for allocating funds to schools for substance use prevention and early intervention services for fiscal year 2013. In preparation for this recommendation, the Health Department held multiple meetings with stakeholders in the Department of Education, Department of Mental Health, the Vermont Student Assistance Program, the Vermont Principal's Association and the Vermont Superintendent's Association. Act 63, Section E. 313(c) recommends the distribution of these funds to Supervisory Unions. However, we recommend that Local Education Agencies (LEA's) be the eligible applicants for this program. This is the recommended standard and is inclusive of all supervisory unions, school districts and semi-private schools. This would also increase consistency with the Department of Education's Tobacco Use Prevention grants, which are also distributed by LEA.

Goal

Schools are critical partners to Vermont's substance abuse prevention strategy. School – based prevention grants are a component of the strategy, aimed at these Healthy Vermonter 2020 objectives:

- Reduce past month use of alcohol, marijuana or any illicit drugs during the past 30 days among adolescents (12-17)
- Reduce binge drinking among adolescents 12-17

Determination of Funding Allocation and Grant Amounts

Funds will be awarded to LEA's based on a competitive application process that considers:

- Need demonstrated by substance use and mental health indicators as well as poverty indicators.
 - YRBS data will be used to determine prevalence rates for substance use and mental health problems among students by LEA.
 - Percentage of students on the Free & Reduced Meal Program.
- Readiness determined by the existence of a school leadership team of which the ADAP grant coordinator will be an active member.
- Strength of the proposed plan, including activities and qualifications of staff delivering the services
- Budget, including 10% matching funds or in kind services.
- Number of students to be served

To support LEAs in developing, implementing, and evaluating substance abuse prevention activities, these grantees will be awarded a 3 year continuation grant, contingent upon satisfactory performance and available funds. Grant period will be August 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015.



Assuming funding of \$830,000 for FY13, approximately 20 LEA's will be selected to receive awards of up to \$40,000 each. To support training and other statewide supports, \$30,000 will be retained.

Funded Services

LEA's will choose from a menu of prevention and early intervention activities and will need to make a connection between their selected activities and their needs based on YRBS data and other sources.

Required activities include:

- Support of coordinated school health initiatives
- Screening and referral to substance abuse and mental health services

Allowable activities include:

- Support of classroom health curricula
- Advising and training of youth empowerment groups
- Delivery of parent information and educational programs
- Delivery of teacher and support staff training
- Delivery of educational support groups

Manualized curricula for health education, parent education and/or educational support groups must be evidence-based for alcohol and drug outcomes.

Program evaluation:

- Process measures such as number of students screened
- Measures of school readiness to implement coordinated school health, substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion
- VT Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicators identified in the research literature as factors influencing early substance use. They are:
 - School belonging (feeling valued at school)
 - Perceived risk of alcohol use
 - Perceived risk of marijuana use

Conclusion

Over the last five years, the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs has supported a comprehensive substance abuse prevention effort and it demonstrated success. According to the 2011 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, alcohol use prior to age 13 has significantly decreased. Significant reductions were also achieved in the percentage of students who have ever used alcohol. Prevention services delivered through schools are essential to our comprehensive substance abuse prevention.

