PURPOSE

The purpose of the Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) (General Departmental-Funded) Program (SRAE-GD) is to fund projects to implement sexual risk avoidance education that teaches participants how to voluntarily refrain from non-marital sexual activity. SRAE-GD Programs also teach the benefits associated with self-regulation, success sequencing for poverty prevention, healthy relationships, goal setting, and resisting sexual coercion, dating violence, and other youth risk behaviors such as underage drinking or illicit drug use without normalizing teen sexual activity.

SERVICES

Grantees use an evidence-based approach and/or effective strategies to educate youth on the optimal health behavior of avoiding non-marital sexual activity and other risky behaviors. SRAE-GD projects provide services to youth populations, age 10-19, using a Positive Youth Development (PYD) framework as part of risk avoidance strategies. The goal of the SRAE-GD program is to educate youth on how to voluntarily refrain from non-marital sexual activity and avoid related risky behaviors. The objectives of providing SRAE-GD services are to:

1. Implement curricula that include medically accurate information referenced in peer-reviewed publications by educational, scientific, governmental, or health organizations.
2. Educate youth using sexual risk avoidance curricula and/or strategies with an evidence-based approach to integrate research findings with practical implementation that align with the needs and desired outcomes of the target population.
3. Teach risk avoidance skills through methods that do not normalize teen sexual activity.
4. Target youth populations that are at risk for non-marital sexual activity and other risk behaviors.
5. Provide information in a manner that prevents negative unintended consequences, such as trauma or ostracism, for youth who have engaged in consensual and/or non-consensual sex.
6. Link program participants to services provided by local community partners that support the safety and well-being of youth.

HISTORY

The Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (General Departmental-Funded) Program is funded generally under the authority of section 1110 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1310, and specifically by the appropriation for General Departmental Management for the Office of the Secretary under Division H, Title II of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, Pub. L. No. 114-113.
MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS

FYSB encourages grantees to consider the following practices in implementing effective sexual risk avoidance programs:

1. Recruit and retain youth participants based upon the identified targeted population.
2. Link program participants to services with local community partners and other agencies that support the health, safety, and well-being of program participants.
3. Formally train facilitators/educators in the program model.

GRANT AWARD PROCESS

FYSB distributes SRAE-GD funds through a competitive review process. In FY2018, $12.8 million was awarded to 30 projects across the nation.