State Abstinence Education Grant Program (AEGP) FACT SHEET

Family and Youth Services Bureau

The mission of the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) is to promote safety, stability and well-being for people who have experienced or been exposed to violence, neglect or trauma. FYSB achieves this through supporting programs that provide shelter, community services and prevention education for youth, adults and families.

PURPOSE

The Title V State Abstinence Education Grant Program (AEGP) provides funding to States and Territories for abstinence education, and where appropriate, mentoring, counseling and adult supervision to promote abstinence from sexual activity. Projects focus on those groups most likely to bear children out of wedlock, including youth, ages 10 to 19, who are homeless, in foster care, live in rural areas or geographic areas with high teen birth rates, or come from racial or ethnic minority groups.

HISTORY

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 authorized and appropriated funding for AEGP for FYs 2010-2014.

SERVICES

Grantees use evidence-based models to promote abstinence by strengthening beliefs supporting abstinence, increasing skills to negotiate abstinence and resist peer pressure, and educating young people about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

Projects support decisions to abstain from sexual activity by providing abstinence programming as defined by Section 510(b) of the Social Security Act, which states abstinence education must:

- Have as its exclusive purpose, teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;
- Teach abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage as the expected standard for all school age children;
- Teach that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems;
- Teach that a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in the context of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity;
- Teach that sexual activity outside of the context of marriage is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects;
- Teach that bearing children out-of-wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents, and society;
- Teach young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances; and

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- Teach the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.

States may determine the relative emphasis to place on each of the Section 510(b) components, and may also use funds for mentoring, counseling or adult supervision programs to promote abstinence.

All projects must be medically accurate, which means that medical information must be verified or supported by the weight of research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific methods and published in peer-reviewed journals, or be comprised of information that leading professional organizations and agencies with relevant expertise in the field recognize as accurate, objective and complete.

MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS

FYSB encourages States to consider the following practices in implementing effective abstinence programs:

- Having a sound theoretical framework;
- Conducting at least 14 hours of programming implemented over a long period of time;
- Encouraging and fostering peer support of decisions to delay sexual activity;
- Selecting qualified educators, training them, and providing monitoring, supervision and support; and
- Involving multiple people with expertise in theory, research and sex education to develop the curriculum.

FYSB will provide States with program-related objective outcome measures designed to measure behavior, attitudes, knowledge and beliefs of young people served.

GRANT AWARD PROCESS

FYSB distributes AEGP funds based on the proportion of low-income children in each State or Territory. States must fund at least 43 percent of the project's total cost with non-Federal resources. In FY 2012, $38.9 million was granted to 39 States and Territories.

CONTACT US

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