

VERMONT2011

School Based Substance Abuse Services

Report to the Legislature on **SAP Plan in Act 63**
November 2, 2011

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.

Determination of Funding Allocation and Grant Amounts

Funds will be allocated to Supervisory Unions (SU) using a competitive process that considers:

- A. 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 SU.
 - Poverty level by SU will be determined by number of students on the Free & Reduced Meal Program.
- B. Readiness determined by the existence of a school leadership team of which the ADAP grant coordinator will be an active member.
- C. Matching funds or in kind services
- D. Number of students by SU

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

Funded Services and Evaluation Process

Supervisory unions will choose from a menu of prevention and early intervention activities and will need to make a connection between their selected activities and their school needs based on YRBS data and other sources. This menu of allowable activities will include but not be limited to:

- Support of coordinated school health initiatives
- Screening and referral to substance abuse and mental health services
- Implementation of evidence based curriculum
- Organization of youth empowerment groups
- Delivery of parent programs
- Delivery of teacher and support staff training



The program evaluation will include process and outcome measures that are specific to each allowable activity.

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 and marijuana 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

