

Community Coalition Capacity Building

Introduction

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) will be releasing a funding announcement that will seek eligible applicants to participate in an initiative focused on building community coalition capacity by helping communities to identify and address local problems using evidence-based approaches. This capacity building planning process will include identifying and recruiting key stakeholders, collecting data, beginning to work with school districts, and addressing barriers to program implementation. This document reviews the minimum requirements for communities/organizations that are interested in applying in response to this solicitation.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations and units of local government. Priority consideration will be given to applicants that have never received a grant from PCCD that included support for the Communities that Care (CTC) model, applicants interested in implementing CTC in a community that does not have an organized coalition, and applicants from regions in the state with significant violence-based need. The project period will be a 21-month development phase with a total budget not to exceed \$150,000. At the end of this developmental phase, organizations will be eligible to apply for an evidence-based practice implementation grant conditioned on the success of the planning grant and based on the availability of funding.

The goal of this funding is to help communities apply the Communities That Care (CTC) model. CTC is an early upstream evidence-based approach to prevent substance misuse, school dropout, delinquency, and violence among youth in Pennsylvania. The CTC model helps communities to develop and maintain collaborative relationships and partnerships within a local community to promote healthy youth development.

Definitions for This Project

Sponsor Agency: Agency that would be the recipient of the grant; the nonprofit organization or unit of local government.

Coalition: An alliance for combined action made up of players from different organizations that represent the systems in a community (for example: health, juvenile probation, human services, providers, businesses, schools, nonprofits, law enforcement, etc.)

Community Readiness: The degree to which a community is prepared to take action on an issue.

Community Capacity: The degree to which a community is able to take action on an issue within its infrastructure.

Communities That Care: An evidenced-based public health approach to help a community organize, collect data, and select programs to address locally identified issues and concerns.

EPIS: The Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support center at Penn State University. Since 2008, EPIS staff have provided training and technical assistance to PCCD-funded grantees and have helped to advance the use of prevention programs, policies, and practices throughout the Commonwealth.

Learn more about EPIS here: http://www.episcenter.psu.edu/about_epis

Minimum Considerations – Applicants must satisfy all of the parameters listed below as part of this developmental process:

- A non-profit or local government entity must serve as the sponsor agency;
- Sponsor agency must be willing to hire full-time coordination staff dedicated to working with the Penn State Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support Technical Assistance team to coordinate coalition and community activities;

- Sponsor agency must be willing to support the administrative and fiscal process of the grant;
- Community board or stakeholder group willing to meet at least monthly;
- Commitments of partnership with local government agencies such as Juvenile Probation, Children and Youth Services, and/or a Single County Authority;
- There must be a clearly defined target community;
- The applicant must be committed to the long-term development of the prevention process;
- The applicant's organizational mission must be aligned with this type of prevention initiative.

Coalition Required Activities – As part of the SurveyMonkey initial request, proposed applicants will need to identify local coalition or stakeholder group members and must commit to future targeted outreach to other stakeholders. The coalition members will assist the project implementation in the following areas:

1. Identify Catalyst(s)
2. Identify Champion(s)
3. Provide contact information for potential Catalysts, Champions, and lead agency(ies)
4. Summarize issues related to key aspects: develop action plan to address outstanding issues
5. Address community readiness issues
6. Develop action plan for outstanding community readiness issues

Long-Term Expectations – Applicants must commit to:

- Committing a full-time coordinator to this work;
 - Does not need to be new hire, but the selected individual must be dedicated to this project as a 100% FTE.
- Working towards use of community-wide data for risk assessment such as PAYS or other surveys;
- Preparing for universal prevention program implementation in your community; and
- Utilizing the CTC model.

Budgetary Considerations – Finalization of budget to be determined in concert with PCCD and not to exceed the total of \$150,000 over the initial 21-month project period. A full-time Community Coordinator/Director will be required.

CTC Resources – Please utilize the resources below located on the EPIS website in preparation for this solicitation:

- What is Communities that Care? <http://epis.psu.edu/ctc>
- What are the CTC Phases? <http://epis.psu.edu/ctc/phases>
- What are the Communities that Care Implementation Tools? <http://epis.psu.edu/CTC/Tools>

Next Steps

PCCD will be utilizing the SurveyMonkey platform for the initial application request and **not Egrants**. Only awarded applicants will be asked to complete a formal application in Egrants. PCCD staff will be able to assist organizations with the formal application process upon receipt of notification of award.

Interested in this solicitation? ***Sign up for a Q&A Webinar that will take place on April 22, 2021!*** Please join PCCD and EPIS staff to learn more about this program and to have the opportunity to ask questions and receive instructions on how to access the SurveyMonkey initial application. Once the SurveyMonkey application opens, all questions must then be directed to the resource account: RA-PCCD-OJJDP@pa.gov with "Community Coalition" in the subject line. You can sign up for the webinar utilizing the following link: <http://epis.psu.edu/cccb2021>.