



**DATE:** June 8, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Evidence-Based Programs Support for Substance Misuse Prevention

**TO:** Pennsylvania Intermediate Units (IUs), Single County Authorities (SCAs), Nonprofit Organizations, and Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY) Programs

**CC:** Superintendents, Student Assistance Program (SAP) Contacts

**FROM:** Mike Pennington, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD)

**Funding Goals & Priorities**

PCCD, in partnership with the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) and the PA Department of Education (PDE), is announcing the availability of \$1 million in federal State Opioid Response (SOR) funding designed to increase availability of universal prevention programs addressing substance use initiation among youth, especially in areas of the Commonwealth hardest hit by the opioid epidemic. Funding will support collaborative planning, capacity building, and implementation of new school-based prevention programs focused on youth in grades 6 through 12. The goals of this funding are to:

- Support school-based professionals and community organizations in building skills among youth to aid in the resistance of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and misuse;
- Prepare communities and schools for implementation of prevention programs for students in grades 6-12 beginning in the 2022-2023 school year (or sooner);
- Increase family engagement to reduce and eliminate negative behaviors;
- Improve youth and family decision-making regarding substance use by promoting social emotional learning; and
- Decrease substance misuse among youth.

Priority consideration will be given to eligible applicants able to demonstrate the following:

1. Need (e.g., local/county overdose rates, PAYS data, Student Assistance Program referrals, etc.);
2. Experience with implementation of evidence-based programs that target substance misuse prevention; and
3. How proposed activities will be sustained after the project period ends (e.g., providing technical assistance (TA) and other continued implementation support beyond the project period with minimal financial impact for participating school districts).

**Eligible Programs & Activities**

Funding under this solicitation will prepare communities for implementation of evidence-based prevention programs for students in grades 6-12. The only eligible programs<sup>1</sup> under this solicitation include:

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<sup>1</sup> Please visit EPIS’s site for more information on each of these eligible programs: <http://www.episcenter.psu.edu/programs>. Note: EPIS will provide technical assistance to grantees during and beyond the project period.

- LifeSkills Training;
- Positive Action (must use the school environment kit); and
- Project Towards No Drug Abuse.

For program selection, applicants must be able to make the case for how their chosen program from the list above specifically addresses the substance use issues of the local community using relevant data (e.g. PAYS, Student Assistance Program, etc.).

Funding provided under this solicitation will support costs associated with planning, developing, and launching one of these eligible programs at the end of the project period. These include, but are not limited to, the purchase of curricula, delivery of training and technical assistance, program implementation, as well as covering other necessary expenses (e.g., personnel, travel, supplies, etc.).

Eligible applicants are encouraged to develop funding proposals with others in their community (i.e., an SCA submitting a joint application for funds with an IU and community-based organization, or an IU submitting an application in partnership with an approved AEDY program). Priority consideration will also be given to eligible applicants who demonstrate collaboration and buy-in from these partners in implementation of their proposed project activities (i.e., letters of support, sub-awarding grant funds, etc.).

#### **Project Specifics & Roles of Each Partner**

- All program-related expenses are eligible expenses under this funding opportunity. This includes costs associated with trainings (including train-the-trainer models) as well as curriculum for school districts.
- The 1-year project period will include a capacity building and recruitment phase. School district commitment at the time of application is encouraged, but not required; however, applicants will be expected to contact the schools during the application process.
- Applicants should outline their plan to provide technical assistance to schools and other community-based stakeholders in delivering the program in the participating school districts.
- Applicants must commit to working with EPIS for consultation and training in data collection and fidelity monitoring.
- Recognizing the important role that IUs and SCAs play in professional development and prevention initiatives, applicants must include letters of support from the IU(s) and SCA(s) serving the proposed project area.
- EPIS will work with grantees to coordinate and/or host local trainings to aid in project implementation.
- Applicants will be required to work with PCCD staff as part of ongoing programmatic and fiscal oversight.

#### **Available Funding, Eligibility, & Project Dates**

- IUs, SCAs, nonprofit organizations, and approved AEDY programs are eligible to apply.
- PCCD plans on funding a maximum of 10 projects using \$1 million in available federal SOR II funding.
- The maximum budget is up to \$100,000 per project.
- The application period will open in July 2021 with an anticipated start date of October 1, 2021 and an end date of September 29, 2022.

**Questions? Questions to clarify this solicitation should be emailed to: [RA-PCCD-OJJDP@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PCCD-OJJDP@pa.gov) with “SOR EBP” in the subject line. Responses will be posted on [PCCD’s website](#).**

*Interested in this solicitation? Sign up for a Lunch N Learn on June 24, 2021 for an opportunity to ask your questions! [Click here](#) to sign up!*