



# Vermont Department of Health H.170 Regional Prevention Partnership



House Judiciary Testimony  
February 14, 2017

# Regional Prevention Partnerships (RPP) Grant



- The RPP is a 5-year cooperative agreement with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The goals of the RPP are:
  - ▣ Reduce underage/binge drinking among 12-20 year-olds;
  - ▣ Reduce marijuana use among 12-25 year-olds;
  - ▣ Reduce prescription drug misuse and abuse among 12-25 year-olds; and
  - ▣ Increase prevention infrastructure and capacity at the state, regional and community levels using the health departments existing health district structure.

# Regional Agencies



Each regional lead agency listed below is funded at \$130,000, and is responsible to implement regional substance abuse prevention strategies and provide funding to local communities to enhance the regional initiatives

- ❑ Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
- ❑ Franklin County Caring Communities
- ❑ Lamoille Family Center
- ❑ Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center
- ❑ North County Hospital (Newport)
- ❑ Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital (St. Johnsbury)
- ❑ Rutland Regional Medical Center
- ❑ The Collaborative (covering Bennington and Springfield regions)
- ❑ United Way of Addison County
- ❑ Washington County Youth Service Bureau and Boys and Girls Club
- ❑ Youth Services (Brattleboro)

# Menu of Marijuana Strategies being Implemented

Required Activities (All Regions)	Optional Activities
<p><b>Local Policy Enhancements (Any of the following): (all)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrictions on Advertising/Promotion</li> <li>• Restrictions on Hours of Operation/Location of Retailers Selling Products Prohibited to Minors</li> <li>• Language in Town Plans Regarding Marijuana Use</li> </ul>	<p>Marijuana / Substance Use Screening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marijuana eCheckUp</li> <li>• School-Based Screening &amp; Referral to Substance Abuse and/or Mental Health Services</li> <li>• Support Training of School / Youth Serving Organizations Staff in Youth Mental Health First Aid or Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals</li> </ul>
<p><b>DUI Enhancements (At least one of the following): (all)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sobriety Check Points</li> <li>• Saturation/Party Patrols</li> <li>• Support/Promote Drug Recognition Experts/ARIDE Trainings</li> </ul>	<p>Family Education Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guiding Good Choices</li> <li>• Nurturing Parenting Program</li> <li>• Strengthening Families Program</li> </ul>
<p><b>Regional Capacity Building: (all)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Mobilization &amp; Media Advocacy</li> <li>• Promotion of Statewide Media Campaigns</li> </ul>	<p>Evidenced Base Health Curricula / School Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gay / Queer Straight Alliance Groups</li> <li>• Michigan Model</li> <li>• Peer Leadership / Youth Empowerment Groups</li> <li>• Project ALERT</li> <li>• School-Based Mentoring</li> <li>• ATLAS</li> <li>• Life Skills</li> <li>• Caring School Community</li> <li>• Project Northland</li> <li>• PROSPER</li> </ul>

# Community-based Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Grants



The goals of the community-based grant program are to:

- ❑ Reduce underage drinking among 12-20 year-olds
- ❑ Reduce high-risk drinking of youth & young adults 25 and under
- ❑ Reduce marijuana use of youth & young adults 25 and under

# Community-based grants range from \$28,000 to \$65,000 and fund the following agencies



- ❑ Burlington Partnership for a Health Community
- ❑ Central Vermont New Directions Coalition (Montpelier)
- ❑ Deerfield Valley Community Partnership (Wilmington)
- ❑ Franklin County Caring Communities
- ❑ HealthWorks ONE Coalition (Newport)
- ❑ Mt. Ascutney Prevention Partnership (Windsor)
- ❑ Rutland Area Prevention Coalition
- ❑ The Collaborative (South Londonderry)
- ❑ Winooski Coalition for a Safe and Peaceful Community

## To implement the following strategies:

- ❑ Education on Policy Approaches: Restricting alcohol/marijuana use in public places or at community events
- ❑ Local enhancements to current control regulations
- ❑ Restricting outlet density of alcohol and marijuana
- ❑ Restricting retail advertisement and promotion of substance
- ❑ Education on social host liability and open container regulations
- ❑ Law enforcement collaborations: Sobriety checkpoints & Saturation patrols
- ❑ eCHECKUP TO GO for alcohol and marijuana (online screening tool)
- ❑ Parenting Programs
- ❑ Youth Leadership
- ❑ Community mobilization
- ❑ Support of statewide media campaigns such as ParentUP

# School Based Substance Abuse Services (SBSAS)

21 (SBSAS) grants at \$40,000 each to implement the following strategies:

## FY16 progress

Below is a summary of data collected in Year 4.

Required Activities	Optional Activities
<p><b>Support of coordinated school health initiatives (all 21 grantees)</b></p>	<p><b>Support of classroom health curricula (18 grantees)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5,674 students participated in evidence-based curricula with a primary focus of substance abuse education</li> </ul>
<p><b>Screening and referral to substance abuse and mental health services (all 21 grantees)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 1,322 students were screened in the 2015-16 school year; 25% screened positive for a possible substance abuse problem; 49% screened positive for a possible mental health problem</li> <li>88% of those students who screened positive for substance abuse were referred to services</li> <li>Approximately 62% of referred students were reported to have connected with recommended substance abuse services</li> </ul>	<p><b>Advising and training of youth empowerment groups (19 grantees)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almost 900 students participated in these groups</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Delivery of parent information and educational programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>123 parents participated in an evidence-based parent program (7 grantees)</li> <li>Almost 8,000 parents were reached by parent information such as newsletters, dialogue night, etc. (19 grantees)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Delivery of teacher and support staff training (14 grantees)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alcohol or other drug training provided to over 1,200 school staff</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Delivery of educational support groups (18 grantees)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 800 students participated in an educational support group</li> </ul>

# Communication Efforts Specific to Marijuana

- ParentUP ([www.parentupvt.org](http://www.parentupvt.org)) is a website for parents on how to talk to their young person about drugs. IN 2016 VDH conducted research with parents to understand their beliefs on marijuana use and the website was revised to include information requested by parents, with the consistent message that parents are the #1 influence on their adolescents substance use.
- To be developed in 2017, a campaign targeting youth around the age of initiation, including non-users vulnerable to risk factors and “on the edge” of marijuana use with the goal of increasing the perceived risk of harm from use and reduce the perception among youth that most people use marijuana
- Also for 2017, development of information materials for parents and adolescents on the risks of marijuana use to be distributed at well-care visits through pediatric practices