

## Substance Use Prevention Funding Proposal Information

<b>SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION COALITIONS - \$3,500,000</b>	
<b>Suggested Talking Points for the Governor</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This funding will build and sustain critical prevention services in every district across the state.</li> <li>2. Community coalitions will reduce the risks in their communities that lead young people to start using drugs.</li> <li>3. This comprehensive and sustained prevention work will build strong communities and support youth to live healthy and productive lives.</li> <li>4. This is a significant investment in the health and wellbeing of our Vermont youth for years to come.</li> <li>5. Stopping substance use before it starts saves lives and money</li> </ol>
<b>Suggested comments to consider</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preventing substance misuse reduces the risks that contribute to alcohol, tobacco, or other drug use – while promoting protective factors that support healthy lifestyles and communities.</li> <li>2. By stopping substance use before it starts, or before it becomes substance misuse, prevention also works to save Vermont tax dollars. <i>This investment will develop a comprehensive prevention system in Vermont by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing state leadership in the development of policies, programs, and services to prevent the onset of illegal drug use, prescription drug misuse and abuse, alcohol misuse and abuse, and underage alcohol and tobacco use</li> <li>• Promoting effective substance abuse prevention practices that enable regions and communities, and other prevention partners to apply prevention knowledge effectively.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Additional supporting information if requested</b>	<p><b>Additional supporting information if requested:</b> Preventing substance misuse reduces the risks that contribute to alcohol, tobacco, or other drug use – while promoting protective factors that support healthy lifestyles and communities. By stopping substance use before it starts, or before it becomes substance misuse, prevention also works to save Vermont tax dollars. This funding will engage and mobilize various sectors of the community to implement evidence-based environmental strategies with a primary focus on changing policies and influencing social norms related to substance use and misuse.</p> <p><b><u>This investment will:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities for prevention partners from around the state, regardless of their funding source(s), to convene and collaborate on shared goals and priorities.</li> <li>• Encourage and facilitate the inclusion of schools in these efforts.</li> <li>• Continue to develop statewide prevention messaging campaigns that can be promoted regionally, particularly messages related to the harms associated with youth marijuana use.</li> <li>• Identify and implement other effective and promising strategies to prevent and reduce marijuana use among youth and young adults, especially in consideration of the current climate of legalization and pending retail availability.</li> <li>• Continue to identify training and resource needs of prevention practitioners, bringing in outside experts as needed to help meet these needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	<p>Vermont received a five year, \$1,000,000 Partnerships for Success grant in 2020 but the amount of funding was less than previous awards and it only covers five regions creating a significant gap in prevention coalition coverage. <b>This funding would add to the \$1 million per year SAMSHA federal investment in Springfield, Rutland, Franklin/Grand Isle, Windham and Washington counties. It will provide nearly \$375,000 to each of the state’s 12 districts and establish a comprehensive statewide prevention network at a critical time with the legalization of cannabis and increased alcohol and opioid misuse.</b></p>