

## Humboldt County

### SDFSC Project

The Humboldt County Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Project is a collaborative effort between the Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Branch Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programs and parents, schools, community agencies and the community. The goal of this project is to reduce the incidence of violence and ATOD use by at-risk youth. The project will consist of the following components: the establishment and on-going convening of a SDFSC Leadership Team, youth educational support groups, youth social/service learning activities, parent education services, and community training regarding youth development and dual diagnosis practices.

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#### **Program Component 1**

*The provision of Youth Education Support Groups to 175-200 youth using a youth development model and a cooperative learning process.*

- Implementation at targeted school sites for a minimum of 16 weeks.
- Support groups based on *Reconnecting Youth* curriculum and staff developed program.
- *Project SUCCESS* curriculum will replace *Reconnecting Youth* and staff developed program.

#### **Population(s) Served**

- Approximately 175-200 youth between the ages of 13 through 18.
- The following schools are being targeted: Eureka High School, 4<sup>th</sup> & D Community School, Six Rivers Community School, Zoe Barnum Continuation High School, Transitional Opportunity Program School, Zane Middle School, and Winship Middle School.

#### **Program Component 2**

*Provide a series of 45-50 youth development social/service activities for 75-100 youth per year.*

- Activities include Friday Night Live groups, social events, service learning opportunities, educational meetings, and opportunities for bonding with caring adults.

#### **Population(s) Served**

- 75-100 youth between the ages of 13 through 18.

#### **Program Component 3**

*The provision of parent education activities to 50-100 parents at the targeted sites.*

- Activities foster parent involvement in school and community-based prevention activities.
- Activities promote the positive aspects of a violence and drug-free lifestyle.

#### **Population(s) Served**

- 50-100 parents of youth at the targeted sites.

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## Science-Based Criteria

- *Reconnecting Youth* (SAMHSA Model Program)
- *Project SUCCESS* (SAMHSA Model Program) will replace *Reconnecting Youth*

## Program Settings

- School-based, during school (Primary)
- School-based, after school (Secondary)
- Community-based (Minimal)

## Program Strategies

- Youth Development (Primary)
- Friday Night Live/Club Live affiliation
- Parent Education and Involvement
- Environmental Prevention
- Violence Prevention

## Risk Characteristics of Target Population

- Risk is identified at three levels community norms, favorable attitudes among youth about ATOD use and violence, and parental attitudes that support ATOD use and violence among youth.
- At the community level, initial community needs assessment identified two higher-risk school districts (Humboldt County Unified School District and the Eureka City School District) based on community ATOD use and poverty rate.
- At the school level, the community/continuation schools within these districts were targeted based on CHKS data.
- At the individual level, youth having particular academic difficulties are targeted to receive services.

## Planning and Collaboration

- Creation of the Safe and Drug Free School and Community Leadership Team that oversees and guides the initial planning and on-going implementation of project and assesses the needs and readiness of the community via focus groups, interviews, and a readiness survey.

- The leadership team meets monthly and the whole group meets quarterly.
- Youth development trainings provided to project staff, teachers, and others working with at-risk youth.
- Dual diagnosis training provided to SDFSC project, school, and other community-based organization staff.

## Evaluation

- A pre-and post-test instrument was developed to measure the impact of the *Reconnecting Youth* curriculum and youth development group process, based on questions derived from the CHKS.
- Evaluation components include attendance logs, focus groups and interviews with youth and parents, administration of sub-sections of the CHKS, CHKS school level data, service observations, and changes in school policies and other environmental factors.

## Sample Performance Indicators

- Long-Term:
  - Reduce favorable attitudes towards ATOD use and violence.
  - Reduce rates of ATOD use and violence among youth at risk.

## Program Updates

- Prevention By Design provided technical assistance in fidelity and adaptation. As a result, the Project Director and leadership team determined that staff and resources are not available to implement *Reconnecting Youth* with fidelity.
- *Project SUCCESS* has been identified as an evidence-based, SAMHSA model program that meets the criteria to be implemented for Program Component 1: Youth Development Groups.
- *Project SUCCESS* will replace existing programs for the youth educational support groups component.