

Sonoma County

Padres Unidos Para Los Ninos

The Sonoma County Padres Unidos Para Los Ninos Program is an expansion of the Gang Risk Intervention Program (GRIP). The program is designed to meet the special needs of recently immigrated Latino families. The primary component of the program is the implementation of The Parent Project for monolingual Spanish speaking parents of children identified as at-risk for involvement in violence and substance abuse. Parents learn concrete prevention, identification and intervention strategies for coping with adolescent behaviors such as poor school attendance and performance, alcohol and drug use, gang involvement, running away and violence. Youth participate with their parents in group meetings where they work together on healthy decision making and communication techniques. The program will also enhance the referral process for mental health and substance abuse treatment services.

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Program Component 1

Build family support through provision of a Spanish language version of The Parent Project curriculum to monolingual Spanish speaking parents of children identified as at risk for involvement in violence and substance abuse.

- The Parent Project is an 11-week parent training program for parents of strong-willed or out-of-control adolescents.
- Consists of six 3-hour sessions, four 2-hour sessions with one 3-hour follow-up session, one to two weeks after the series.
- Bicultural, Spanish-speaking facilitators attended a mandatory 40-hour training.
- Parents learn concrete prevention, identification, and intervention strategies for coping with adolescent behaviors including poor school attendance, ATOD use, gang involvement, running away, and violence.

Population(s) Served

- 36-50 parents of at-risk middle school Latino youth (18-25 per school site).
- The following 2 schools are being targeted: Comstock Middle School (Northwest Santa Rosa) and Cook Middle School (Southwest Santa Rosa).

Program Component 2

Enhance screening and referral to identify at-risk Latino youth and families.

- A Participant Assessment Team (PAT) completes the assessment and referral process for identified at-risk youth.
- Identified youth with monolingual parents in need of support will be referred to Padres Unidos.
- In addition, a Youth and Family Advocate, employed by SCPEO, will contact the family to support and encourage their participation in Padres Unidos.

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Population(s) Served

- Identified at-risk Latino youth and families.
- The following 2 schools are being targeted: Comstock Middle School (Northwest Santa Rosa) and Cook Middle School (Southwest Santa Rosa).

Program Component 3
Expand Gang Risk and Intervention Program (GRIP) intervention services for youth.

- Youth develop relationships with responsible adults, establish individual goals, and design community and school activities for GRIP project participants.
- Expansion components include support (positive family communication and parent involvement in schooling) and boundaries and expectations (family boundaries, school boundaries, and high expectations).
- SCPEO will employ two bilingual, bicultural outreach workers and a Youth and Family Advocate to recruit families and support program participants.

Population(s) Served

- 40 identified at-risk Latino youth (20 per school site).
- The following 2 schools are being targeted: Comstock Middle School (Northwest Santa Rosa) and Cook Middle School (Southwest Santa Rosa).

Program Component 4
Enhance referral to available local resources for mental health treatment and substance abuse treatment.

- GRIP staff will work to strengthen the mental health referral process.
- SCPEO will provide additional counseling services to serve referrals from the target community.
- The Padres Program Youth and Family Advocate will conduct home visits to maximize family support.
- Project staff will advocate for increased resources for Latino families.

- SCPEO will implement a uniform AOD screening process with all youth participants and will refer students to appropriate substance abuse treatment services.
- The Padres Program Youth and Family Advocate will work with families to address cultural challenges in terms of substance abuse treatment and access appropriate services.

Population(s) Served

- Identified at-risk Latino youth and families.
- The following 2 schools are being targeted: Comstock Middle School (Northwest Santa Rosa) and Cook Middle School (Southwest Santa Rosa).

Science-Based Criteria

- No model program adoption.
- *The Parent Project* (identified by former Governor Pete Wilson as one of three exemplary [prevention] programs in California)

Program Settings

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

Program Strategies

- Parent Training/Education (Primary)
- Violence Prevention
- ATOD Prevention

Risk Characteristics of Target Population

- Risk is identified at three levels, the community, school, and individual level.
- At the community level, the targeted service communities have high levels of poverty, juvenile crime, gang activity, ATOD use and violence.
- At the school level, risk was identified by CHKS data, API scores, and free or reduced lunch data.
- At the individual level, Latino youth identified as at-risk for ATOD use and gang involvement are targeted for program services.

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Planning and Collaboration

- The project is supported by an existing coalition, the Sonoma County Community Health Partnership (SCCHP) including the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), Department of Health Services (DHS), Santa Rosa Police Department (SRPD), several community-based organizations, parents, teachers, business owners, representatives from the faith community, and neighborhood organizers.
- Coalition's goals are the prevention of youth substance abuse and community development in low-income communities experiencing ATOD-related problems.
- A collaborative partnership has formed between the Sonoma County Department of Health Services and the West Santa Rosa Gang Risk Intervention Program (GRIP) comprised of the Santa Rosa City Schools (SRCS) and the Sonoma County People for Economic Opportunity (SCPEO).
- The Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) worked collaboratively with the Sonoma County Health Partnership in the implementation of the Drug Free Communities Project (SCDFCP). A permanent subcommittee of SCDFCP was established to support the Padres Unidos program.

Evaluation

- The Sonoma County Drug Free Communities Project is the evaluator of project activities.
- A pre and post intervention survey will assess family assets both before and after the series.
- Additional evaluation components include: school academic records, attendance logs, and school incident data.

Sample Performance Indicators

- Long-Term:
 - Reduce ATOD use (youth)
 - Decrease gang involvement (youth)
 - Increase academic success (youth)
 - Increase in sense of connectedness to school (parents)
 - Increase in recognition of ATOD use and gang involvement in youth (parents)