



The **FINANCE PROJECT**

# Funding Note

## SAMHSA Funding Opportunities for Afterschool Substance Abuse Prevention and Mental Health Services

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### Overview

**M**any children served in afterschool programs would be left alone in dangerous neighborhoods, potentially engaging in risky sexual and criminal behaviors, if not for their participation in structured programming. In fact, research has shown that students who spend the majority of their afterschool hours in unsupervised activities are more likely to drink, use drugs, smoke, and engage in other high-risk behaviors.

Afterschool programs can help combat negative peer influences, strengthen student academic achievement, and provide students with safe and engaging activities that make drug use less attractive. In addition, afterschool programs may provide a targeted opportunity for direct prevention and treatment-oriented activities.

This *Funding Note* focuses on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the federal agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services created in 1992 to focus attention, programs, and funding on improving the lives of people with or at risk for mental and substance use disorders. Many of SAMHSA's principles and priority issues present opportunities for providers to both receive grants or partner with SAMHSA grantees to provide mental health and substance abuse prevention services through afterschool programming. SAMHSA's priority issues include:

- Workforce development
- Co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders
- Children and families
- Criminal justice

This *Funding Note* provides an overview of how SAMHSA's programs and funding are organized and the current priorities of the agency, with an emphasis on funding sources with relevance for afterschool. Funding sources and amounts may vary in coming years given changing funding priorities and appropriations.



**Resources for  
Out-of-School Time  
Leaders**

## Funding Landscape

With a budget of approximately \$3.4 billion in fiscal year 2005, SAMHSA administers the bulk of federal funding supporting substance abuse prevention and treatment and mental health services (aside from public insurance programs). SAMHSA is organized in three centers that administer two major formula grants, as well as a range of discretionary grants. Below is a description of the three centers and the major programs that they administer:

**The Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)** focuses on improving the availability and accessibility of high-quality community-based services for people with or at risk for mental illnesses and their families.

**The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)** developed a Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) to support its mission to bring effective prevention to every community nationwide. The goals of CSAP and the Strategic Prevention Framework are to build capacity with states and the prevention field to promote resiliency and decrease risk factors for individuals, families and communities.

**The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)** promotes the availability and quality of community-based substance abuse treatment services for individuals and families who need them. It supports policies and programs to broaden the range of evidence-based effective treatment services for individuals who abuse alcohol or drugs.

### Formula Grant Opportunities

SAMHSA administers two major block grants that together comprise almost 70 percent of their total budget. They are:

- **The Community Mental Health Services Block Grant** (\$436 million in FY 05): Administered by CMHS, this grant provides financial assistance to states and territories to enable them to carry out the state's plan for providing comprehensive community mental health services to adults and children and;

- **The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant** (\$1.8 billion in FY 05): Administered by CSAT, this grant provides funds to states and territories to support projects for the development and implementation of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation activities for individuals abusing drugs or alcohol.

As with all block grants, states have considerable flexibility to direct these dollars according to state priorities and service needs. Some states allocate funds to counties on a per capita basis, while others make awards directly to community agencies. In total, the two block grants currently provide funding to 10,500 community based agencies to provide substance abuse prevention and treatment and mental health services. Each state must submit a yearly plan outlining their priorities and intended uses of the block grant funds. The extent to which grants or contracts are issued on a competitive basis varies by state.

### Discretionary Grant Opportunities

SAMHSA administers a wide variety of grants that tend to be short-term in nature and are designed to test and implement new approaches. Their discretionary grant portfolio contains four standard grant announcements that describe the general program design and provide application instructions for four types of grants:

- 1) **Services Grants:** Grants that provide funding for implementation of services;
- 2) **Infrastructure Grants:** Grants that support identification and implementation of systems change; (These tend to be limited to state agency applicants.)
- 3) **Best Practices Planning and Implementation Grants:** Grants that help communities and providers identify practices to effectively meet needs and develop strategic plans for implementing practices;
- 4) **Service-to-Science Grants:** Grants that document and evaluate innovative practices that address critical service gaps but have not yet been formally evaluated.

Effective January 2005, SAMHSA will no longer announce its funding opportunities in the federal register. SAMHSA will instead post notices of funding availability only on [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) and [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov).

Generally SAMHSA issues the majority of its requests for proposals in the winter and spring, with applications closing in June and July. The critical time to monitor funding announcements is January - April. Most SAMHSA discretionary and cooperative grant programs relevant to afterschool require coalitions or infrastructure building that lead to the development of integrated systems of support for children and adolescents. Some examples are listed below:

- **State Incentive Grants:** These grants provide funding to state governments to advance community-based program implementation for substance abuse prevention, mental health promotion, and mental illness prevention. SAMHSA recently awarded grants to 21 states. It is important to note that states are required to allocate a minimum of 85 percent of their total grant awards to community-level organizations. Community-based afterschool programs with a prevention focus may be able to access these funds. In FY 04 and 05, one priority for the State Incentive Grants is underage drinking prevention.
- **Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Substance Abuse State Infrastructure Grants:** These cooperative agreements provide funds to states to build and sustain community-based, family-centered systems of care for children with serious emotional disturbances, including children with co-occurring substance abuse.
- **Drug Free Communities:** This program provides grants of up to \$100,000 to community coalitions that mobilize their communities to prevent youth alcohol, tobacco, illicit drug, and inhalant abuse. The grants support coalitions of youth, parents, media, law enforcement, school officials, faith-based organizations, fraternal organizations, government agencies, healthcare professionals, and other community representatives. The program enables community coalitions to strengthen their coordination and prevention efforts, encourage citizen participation in substance abuse reduction efforts, and disseminate information about effective programs. In October 2004, this program was transferred from the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to SAMHSA.
- **Youth Transition into the Workplace Grants (YIW):** This cooperative agreement grant funds substance abuse prevention programs for youth ages 16-24 who are transitioning into the workplace.
- **Community Collaborations to Prevent Youth Violence and Promote Youth Development program (Youth Violence Prevention Grants):** These two-year grants fund collaborations of community organizations and constituencies to foster the prevention of youth violence, substance abuse, delinquency, suicide, or other mental health and behavior problems through a public health approach.
- **State Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Coordination:** These three-year grants help states build capacity to provide effective, accessible, and affordable substance abuse treatment for youth and their families. Grants provide funding to support a staff position and a state process to assess, facilitate, and coordinate ongoing, self-sustaining cross-system planning for effective adolescent substance abuse treatment. The goal of the grant is to form linkages with other service systems that provide mental health, education, health, child welfare, and juvenile justice services for youth and their families and identify opportunities to coordinate funding and treatment resources across these systems to the fullest extent possible.
- **The Targeted Capacity Expansion (TCE) Program** is a discretionary grant that provides funding aimed at helping states and communities to respond to new and emerging

trends in drug use. A recently funded TCE grant provided \$23 million to programs serving youth in an effort to fight club drug use. In FY 2005, CSAT intends to fund projects that focus on enhanced services to native populations, rural populations, and combating campus drinking and substance abuse.

## Tips for Programs

- **Learn how your state administers SAMHSA funds:** Accessing formula and discretionary funds for afterschool begins with understanding how your state administers these dollars. By either contacting your state administrator's office and/or reviewing its web page, you can begin to get an understanding of the extent to which your state is issuing grants and/or contracts on a competitive basis, the range of existing grantees and contractors, and your state's key funding priorities. See the resource section of this document for state contacts and web pages. Another useful resource is the yearly plans that states are required to submit outlining their priorities and intended uses of formula grant funds.
- **Partner with prevention and treatment providers:** Given SAMHSA's current priorities on collaborative, community-based prevention and treatment approaches, there is clearly opportunity for afterschool programs to develop partnerships with providers in the mental health and substance abuse prevention arena. Afterschool programs, as partners of schools, law enforcement, and mental health service providers, are in the unique position to provide support services for at risk youth by offering supplemental services like counseling, tutoring, mentoring, gang diversion, conflict resolution, character building programs, and drop-out prevention activities.
- **Educate state officials about the role of afterschool in comprehensive prevention efforts:** Afterschool programs may want to emphasize that the children that you work with are the target age for prevention efforts and that they are being served during the hours between school and home, when children are most likely to experiment with illegal substances or need socialization. In short, afterschool programming can be an ideal venue for prevention efforts that need to occur early and in a non-stigmatizing manner.

## County Coalition Receives SAMHSA Funds for Afterschool Planning

The Links to Learning Coalition of San Jose and Santa Clara County is a collaborative effort of the major afterschool programs and community organizations in Santa Clara County. In October 2004, the Coalition was awarded a direct grant totaling \$300,000 through SAMHSA's Community Collaborations to Prevent Youth Violence and Promote Youth Development program (also known as the "Youth Violence Prevention Grant"). This funding will be used to help the group identify the afterschool needs of the community and to implement sustainable programs to meet these needs. The Coalition plans to target elementary and middle school children who are at risk for violence, as demonstrated by the prevalence of risk factors in their schools such as low academic achievement, high percentages of youth eligible for free and reduced lunch, and high rates of school suspensions. During the first year of the project, the Coalition intends to plan two Community Retreats on youth violence prevention and youth development, as well as alert the community to the group's efforts through a newsletter. After laying the groundwork, the group plans to implement a youth development program in the second year of the project that will blend promising practices established by previous efforts to instill developmental assets into existing youth service programs. The Coalition applied for this particular grant after doing some research on SAMHSA's website for funding opportunities that could apply to the school-age population.

## Wyoming Blends Funds to Create New Grant Program

Wyoming leaders, through the state-level Wyoming Youth Development Collaborative, recently created a new grant program, the 21st Century State Incentive Grant (21st Century SIG), to encourage community collaboration around youth services in the state. Spearheaded by the Department of Education and the Department of Health, state officials combined four separate funding sources to implement the program: 21st Century Community Learning Centers; the Governor's allocation of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program; SAMHSA's State Incentive Grant; and state tobacco settlement dollars. A total of \$13.5 million has been awarded over three years (\$4.5 million per year). Funds are used to prevent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use and abuse for youth ages 12-17; reduce known risk factors and enhance known protective factors; advance academic achievement through before- and afterschool activities, including during summer recess periods for youth of all ages; and serve populations not normally served by the state educational agency, such as school dropouts and youth in detention centers. The new grant program aligns the overlapping goals of the four funding streams and encourages communities to collaborate across systems to build a community-wide continuum of care during non-school hours. To date, 26 Wyoming communities have created community collaboratives and community advisory boards to oversee and coordinate this and other relevant funding sources at the local level. For more information, see <http://sad.state.wy.us/21SIG>.

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## Helpful Resources

### Websites

State contacts for the **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant** Program are available at <http://www.treatment.org>.

State contacts for the **Community Mental Health Services Block Grant** are available at <http://www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/databases>

The **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** provides a forecast of future funding opportunities at [http://alt.samhsa.gov/grants/2004/snapshots\\_menu.asp](http://alt.samhsa.gov/grants/2004/snapshots_menu.asp).

**National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW)**, a service of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), Children's Bureau's Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN) : <http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/>

**Join Together** provides information on funding opportunities related to substance abuse prevention at <http://www.jointogether.org/>.

The **Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America** offers grant-writing tips at <http://cadca.org/CoalitionResources/Funding.asp>.

**National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse** is a national organization, which brings together under one roof all the professional disciplines needed to study and combat abuse of all substances <http://www.casacolumbia.org/>

### Publications

**Developing Competitive SAMHSA Grant Applications** is a manual developed by SAMHSA to provide guidance on understanding funding opportunities, writing grants, and navigating the grant review process. Available online at <http://alt.samhsa.gov/grants/TAMannual/toc.htm>

**Partners**, a clearinghouse sponsored by SAMHSA, has published **Focus on Funding**, available at [http://www.preventionpartners.samhsa.gov/foc\\_sustain\\_p1.asp](http://www.preventionpartners.samhsa.gov/foc_sustain_p1.asp), to encourage sustainable substance abuse prevention programs.

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