



New Mexico Public Education Department

School & Family Support Bureau



Building Capacity for Preventing Youth Substance Use and Violence (aka, "Bridge Grant")

In order to address the elimination of the federal Title IV Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) received a small planning grant. The purpose of the grant is to develop a sustainable, prevention focused infrastructure that will build partnerships between state agencies (including the Single State-Agency for Substance Abuse Services), schools and community-based organizations to continue to strengthen schools in creating safe and drug-free learning environments that promote academic achievement. In order to do this, NMPED is engaging key stakeholders to participate in a Prevention Infrastructure Team (PIT) that will meet to accomplish the tasks of the grant. The PIT will strengthen the capacity of state agencies to communicate, coordinate and collaborate amongst themselves, and with schools and communities, in order to enhance agency support to schools. NMPED will provide leadership for a strategic planning process that will be used to guide New Mexico in fostering prevention efforts in the future.

Goal: Continue to strengthen prevention efforts for substance use and violence in order to sustain and improve a safe and drug-free school environment for **all** New Mexico youth.

The NMPED proposes to use the following strategies for successful project implementation:

- Strengthen communication, coordination and collaboration among state agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs) in order to enhance their capacity to support schools in their efforts to create and sustain safe and drug-free school environments.
- Conduct an assessment in order to identify current resources and gaps at both the state and local levels.
- Implement a strategic planning process to guide New Mexico in fostering future prevention efforts in schools.
- Assist schools in sustaining and improving prevention efforts and enhancing their capacity to seek new resources.

GRANT PERIOD: September 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011, then received a one-time no-cost extension with end date set for **September 30, 2012**.

DEFINITIONS

Prevention: A proactive process that empowers individuals and systems to meet the challenges of life events and transitions by creating and reinforcing conditions that promote healthy behaviors and lifestyles. (SAMHSA/CSAP)

Substance Abuse Prevention: The goal of substance abuse prevention is the fostering of a climate in which (a) alcohol use is acceptable only for those of legal age and only when the risk of adverse consequences is minimal; (b) prescription and over-the-counter drugs are used only for the purposes for which they were intended; (c) other abusable substances, e.g., aerosols, are used only for their intended purposes; and (d) illegal drugs and tobacco are not used at all. (SAMHSA/CSAP)

Violence Prevention: The goal of violence prevention is to prevent the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, that is (a) self directed (against oneself), (b) interpersonal (against another person), or (c) collective (by or against a group or community) that results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, maldevelopment, deprivation or physical, psychological or spiritual harm. (adapted from World Health Organization)

Strategic Planning Sessions - Component Areas

Group I:

- **Strengthening Individual Knowledge and Skills:** Enhancing an individual's capacity to prevent injury or illness and promote safety.
- **Promoting Community Education:** Reaching groups of people with information and resources to promote health and safety.

Group II:

- **Educating Providers:** Informing providers (including educators and behavioral health providers) who will transmit skills and knowledge to others.
- **Influencing Policy and Legislation:** Developing strategies to change laws and policies to influence outcomes.

Group III:

- **Fostering Coalitions and Networks:** Convening groups and individuals for broader goals and greater impact.
- **Changing Organizational Practices:** Adopting regulations and shaping norms to improve health and safety.