 **Somerset County Health Department**

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**Request for Proposals for FY’22 Funding**

**Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) Program**

The Somerset County Health Department is soliciting proposals from community and school based organizations interested in funding to implement Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) programming at county after-school and/or community centers. The program will be implemented using an evidence-based curriculum “MAD: Making a Difference!” to youth ages of 10-19. (see Attachment A). This grant will also focus on helping youth with healthy relationships, empowerment, innovative thinking, and character building. This program will follow a train-the-trainer model for all agencies that wish to participate.

**BACKGROUND**

Teenage pregnancies and associated consequences of sexual activity like sexually transmitted infections continue to be a major concern in Somerset County. In 2019, the total number of chlamydia, gonorrhea, as well as primary and secondary syphilis cases reported in the state of Maryland increased fifty one percent from 2010. Maryland was ranked the twelfth highest in the nation for chlamydia infection rates in 2018. In 2019, there was a 6.5% increase of chlamydia cases from 2018. Maryland also had a 12.5% increase in cases of gonorrhea from 2018. In 2018, Maryland ranked the 12th highest in the nation for both primary and secondary syphilis rates with a 17.8% increase of cases in 2019. The 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) had many significant statistics. Nationwide, 38.4% of high school students reported ever having sexual intercourse. Only 54.3% of high school students reported using a condom during their last sexual intercourse, nationwide. Nationwide, 9.1% of students who reported being sexually active used dual methods of protection, which include condoms and effective hormonal birth control. There were no county stats in the YBRS, only nationwide and state stats.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Funding up to** **$3,000** will be available. Timeline for this funding is **January 3, 2022 to June 3, 2022**. **Applications will be competitive** and only those proposals that best align with this initiative will be awarded. Funds can be used for educational materials**,** snacks, incentives, and educational events that align with program goals and objectives**.**

All activities must be completed and funds spent by **June 3**, **2022** to allow adequate time for completion of activity and budget reports. Final reports will be due by **June 15, 2022**.

Proposals must be submitted to Rowan Renshaw, Somerset County Health Department via email at rowan.renshaw@maryland.gov by **December 17, 2021**. Questions related to this application are permitted by emailing Mrs. Renshaw or calling 443-523-1700.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Proposal must be no more than 3 pages that includes all of the following:**
2. **Summary of Proposal.** Briefly describe the item(s) or activities proposed, the project goals, the non-duplicate number of youth and adults to be educated.
3. **Need for funding:** In no more than 2 paragraphs, explain why this funding is needed. You can also include current initiatives/education and how this funding will enhance those efforts or be used to create new programs. Include demographics on youth, population and community served and how this funding will make a difference.
4. **Description of the Program:** Describe in greater detail the proposed activities. Include timeline, materials and curriculum that will be used, description of the target population, number of students and adults (if applicable) that will be educated, evaluation methods, and plans for sustainability.
5. **Line Item Budget:** Provide justification for all funding requested in the proposal. **Portions of the funding must be for the purchase of the curriculum (approximately $999)**. Please include that in the budget. Costs and details for the curriculum can be found here: <https://www.etr.org/ebi/programs/making-a-difference/> Other acceptable expenses are educational materials, publicity of activities, reasonable travel expenses, salary, food (no more than $5-7 per person) and program supplies.

**PROPOSAL RATING**

Proposals will be rated based on the following information:

* Proposal includes all items (10)
* Summary of proposal is complete (25)
* Need for funding is thorough (15)
* Description of the program is detailed with evaluation methods and sustainability plans (30)
* Line item budget includes reasonable costs and provides justification of items (20)

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

1. Late proposals will not be accepted. Proposals may be emailed or hand delivered to the health department.

2. Each organization funded will be required to submit quarterly reports to the Somerset County Health Department along with all receipts and expenditures.

3**.** Awardees will meet with the Prevention Services Director and SRAE Coordinator to sign award documents and discuss project implementation.

4**.** Awardees must agree to at least one site visit by the Prevention Services Director and/or SRAE Coordinator.

*Appendix A*

**Information Regarding MAD: Making A Difference Curriculum**

### OVERVIEW

### To reduce STD/HIV and pregnancy risk-related behaviors, young adolescents not only need knowledge and perception of personal vulnerability, but also positive attitudes and beliefs regarding abstinence, abstinence negotiation skills, and confidence in their ability to abstain from sex.

### POPULATION SERVED & SETTING

The curriculum was designed to be used with small groups ranging from 6–12 participants, but can be implemented with larger groups as well. The curriculum can be implemented in various community settings, including schools and youth-serving agencies. The age group for this curriculum is middle school students, ages 12-14.

**DESCRIPTION**

The *Making a Difference!* curriculum includes a series of fun and interactive learning experiences designed to increase participation and help young adolescents understand the faulty reasoning and decision making that puts them at risk for HIV/STDs and pregnancy.

The curriculum incorporates the “Make a Difference! Be Proud! Be Responsible!” theme that encourages the participants to make a difference and abstain from sex, to be proud of themselves, their family and their community, and to behave responsibly for the sake of themselves, their family and their community.

The curriculum involves culturally sensitive video clips, games, brainstorming, role-playing, skill-building activities and small-group discussions. Each activity lasts a brief time, and most are active exercises in which the adolescents get out of their seats and interact with each other.

Below are some example activities used in *Making a Difference!*:

* The goals and dreams activity focuses on having the adolescents consider their goals for the future and how participating in sexual activity at their current age might thwart the attainment of their goals.
* Video clips are used to depict young adolescents in various situations. These videos evoke feelings, thoughts, attitudes, beliefs, and stereotypes about HIV/STD and pregnancy, and the importance of practicing abstinence.
* The role-play scenarios provide young adolescents with a variety of ways in which they could use the negotiation-refusal skills that they learn in this program.

**CURRICULUM WEBSITE**

Learn more here<https://www.etr.org/ebi/programs/making-a-difference/>