**Somerset County Health Department**

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**Request for Proposals for FY’20 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 “PHAT-A: Promoting Health Among Teens!” ages 12-19 or “MAD: Making a Difference!” to youth ages of 10-19. 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 continue to be a major concern in Somerset County. The increased spread of sexually transmitted infections is of high importance as evidenced through data from DHMH reports. In 2018, the county’s Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Syphilis cases and rates surpassed the 2017 county rate and were significantly higher than the overall state rate. Most noticeably was the number of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea cases which was very high in a one year span. Chlamydia increased 5.6% and Gonorrhea increased 51.9% from 2017 to 2018. The 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) had many sobering statistics. Nationwide, 39.5% of high school students reported having sexual intercourse. Nationwide, 3.4% of students have had sexual intercourse for the first time before the age of 13 years old. In the state of Maryland, 2.0% reported having sex before the age of 13. Also, in Maryland 29.7% of high school students has reported having sexual intercourse. That percent rose with each academic year to a high of 60% of twelfth graders. Of those, the sexual intercourse percentage is higher among African American students (45.8%) than any other race. It is also higher (7.5%) for African American students who have reported having sexual intercourse for the first time before the age of 13. 28.7% of high school students report current sexual activity yet only 23.1% report using any form of birth control. There were no county stats in the YBRS, only nationwide and state stats.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Funding up to** **$2,000** will be available for the 2020 fiscal year. Proposals must be submitted to Tynice DeShields, Somerset County Health Department via email at tynice.deshields@maryland.gov. by **October 28, 2019**. **Awards will be made pending budget approval**. Questions related to this application are permitted by emailing Mrs. DeShields or calling 443-523-1700.

**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, educational trips, incentives, and educational events that align with program goals and objectives**.**

 All activities must be completed and funds spent by **May 31**, **2020** to allow adequate time for completion of activity and budget reports. Final reports will be due by **June 5, 2020**.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Please submit a proposal of no more than 2 pages that includes:

1. **Summary of Proposal.** In no more than two paragraphs, describe the item(s) or activities proposed, the project goals, the non-duplicate number of youth and adults to be educated.

2. **Need for funding:** In no more than 2 paragraphs explain why this funding is needed. 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.

3. **Description of the Program:** Describe in greater detail the proposed item(s) or activities. Include timeline, materials that will be used, description of the target population, number of students and adults that will be reached, evaluation methods, and plans for sustainability.

4. **Line Item Budget:** Provide justification for all funding requested in the proposal. Include specific costs of proposed materials. Acceptable expenses are educational materials, publicity of activities, travel expenses, salary, food (no more than $5-7 per person) and event supplies.

**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.