



## **Somerset County Health Department**

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### **Request for Proposals for FY 22 Funding Community Based Tobacco Prevention and Education Programs**

The Somerset County Health Department is soliciting proposals from nonprofit organizations interested in funding to create and implement tobacco prevention and education activities for youth that focus on tobacco, cigars, smokeless tobacco, e-cigarettes and vaping.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Somerset County youth continue to smoke at a higher rate than youth in the rest of Maryland, with a dramatic increase in the use of smokeless tobacco products and electronic cigarettes and vaping. Youth cigarette use is down 67.8% in the same time frame to a low of 9.4%. Smokeless tobacco, however, has seen a 59.3% increase with 8.6% of youth report using smokeless tobacco. Most alarming is that youth are now using electronic vapor products. 42.9% of High School students in Somerset County have reported ever using electronic vapor products. Student use is currently reported at 26.6%. Additionally, tobacco outlet inspections using youth decoys to purchase tobacco products showed that 25% to 33% of outlets were willing to sell to underage youth. The health department is seeking nonprofit community based partners who can educate youth and adults and ultimately reduce these statistics.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Funding up to **\$2,000** will be available for the 2022 fiscal year. Proposals must be submitted to Christie Taylor, Somerset County Health Department via email at [christie.taylor@maryland.gov](mailto:christie.taylor@maryland.gov). Questions related to this application are permissible by calling Christie Taylor at 443-523-1700. All proposals must be received by **March 1, 2022**. Late proposals will not be accepted.

All activities must be completed and funds spent by **Friday, June 17, 2022**, to allow adequate time for completion of activity and budget reports. Final reports will be due by **Friday, June 17, 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, educational events, tobacco focused activities for youth and parents, poster/video/photo contests, or other creative ideas to engage and educate youth and parents on the dangers of tobacco use and/or electronic vapor products. Virtual activities are strongly encouraged. Awards will be announced by mid March.

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

Please submit a proposal of no more than 2-3 pages that includes:

1. **Summary of Proposal.** In no more than two paragraphs, describe the 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 tobacco 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) and 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, and event supplies.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

1. Each community organization must put on an anti-tobacco event within the community to educate others in the community. Adherence to the current COVID related guidelines is required.
2. Each organization funded will be required to submit a detailed one page final report on or by June 17, 2022 on their project. **Also, a technical support meeting will be scheduled to follow-up and to discuss any questions or concerns.**
3. Funding will be reimbursed to awardees. All receipts of expenditures will be required for **full reimbursement**. Please provide the following as you spend out funds: **receipts, an invoice for the amount to be reimbursed, and a cover letter on letterhead with directions for reimbursement.**
4. Awardees will meet with the Tobacco Coordinator and program director to sign award documents and discuss project implementation.
5. Awardees must agree to at least one site visit by the Tobacco Coordinator.