

Abstract for Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse

The purpose of the Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse program is to provide resources for LEAs to develop and implement innovative and effective alcohol abuse prevention programs for secondary school students. Under this program the only eligible applicants are local educational agencies. They may compete for funds to implement activities that include one or more proven strategies for reducing underage alcohol abuse as determined by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

SAMHSA, through a contractual arrangement with ED will provide technical assistance to grantees electing to implement one of the SAMHSA “model programs”. They will also disseminate program information and provide training and technical assistance to practitioners who adopt/adapt their programs in order to maximize effectiveness of model programs.

Generally projects must focus on the development and implementation of innovative and effective alcohol abuse prevention programs in secondary schools. Three measures have been developed for evaluating the overall effectiveness of the Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse program.

The statute requires each applicant to:

- (1) Describe the activities to be carried out under the grant;
- (2) Provide an assurance that such activities will include one or more of the proven strategies for reducing underage alcohol abuse as determined by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration;
- (3) Explain how activities to be carried out under the grant that are not described in (2) above will be effective in reducing underage alcohol abuse, including references to the past effectiveness of such activities; and
- (4) Provide an assurance that the applicant will submit to the Secretary an annual report concerning the effectiveness of the programs and activities funded under the grant.

An additional factor we considered in selecting an application for an award is rural and low-income status. Applications from rural and low-income applicants were read and scored separately and up to 25 percent of the available funds will be reserved for awards to these LEAs. Note that to be considered under these provisions, applicants must be both rural and low-income.