

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE****Office of Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention**

[OJP(OJJDP)-1114]

RIN 1121-ZA61

**Notice of Funding Availability for  
Evaluation of Youth Substance Use  
Prevention Program****AGENCY:** Office of Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention, Office of  
Justice Programs, Justice.**ACTION:** Notice of funding availability.**SUMMARY:** To conduct a formative  
evaluation that documents the  
effectiveness of youth-led substance  
abuse prevention programs to be funded  
by the President's Crime Prevention  
Council (the Council) and administered  
by the Office of Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The  
purpose of the evaluation is to provide  
a better understanding of the processes  
by which youth-led prevention  
programs are developed and  
implemented, and their effects on youth  
participants.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For  
further information call Eric Peterson,  
Program Manager, Research and  
Program Development Division, 202-  
307-5929 or send an email inquiry to  
eric@ojp.usdoj.gov.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background:**

The President's Crime Prevention Council "Ounce of Prevention Program" was established in 1994 through the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, Title III, Subtitle A (Pub. L. 103-322, 42 U.S.C. 13741-44). The Ounce of Prevention Program supports the coordination and integration of programs, initiatives, and service delivery for summer and after-school education and recreation programs; mentoring, tutoring, and other programs involving participation by adult role models; programs assisting and promoting employability and job placement; and prevention and treatment programs to reduce substance abuse, child abuse, and adolescent pregnancy, including outreach programs for at-risk families.

To address the significant problems of drug and alcohol use among youth, the Council developed its Fiscal Year 1996 grant program to support community-based, youth-led and grassroots organizations that significantly and substantially involve youth in preventing and combating drug and alcohol use among youth. It is believed

that traditional, adult-managed substance abuse prevention programs typically do not address youth-specific problems. The Council believes that at-risk youth will respond more favorably to substance abuse prevention programs if other young people from the same community play substantial and meaningful roles in the management and operation of such programs. The President's Crime Prevention Council and OJJDP will award up to 12 one-year grants to non-profit youth-led/youth-involved organizations to support activities designed to combat youth drug and alcohol use.

Organizations funded under this program will work to design, enhance, or expand substance use prevention services that target youth and that are provided by or substantially involve other young people between the ages of 12 and 21 in the design, implementation, and delivery of program services. The Youth Substance Use Prevention Program will accomplish the following objectives:

- Increase collaboration between community-based, youth-serving and youth-led groups and law enforcement, schools, houses of worship, and government in combating youth drug and alcohol use.
- Assist and empower youth to help solve problems that affect them.
- Promote personal growth and social responsibility among young people.

In support of the Council, OJJDP will fund an evaluation of the Youth Substance Use Program.

**Goals:** The goals of this evaluation are to build the local program grantees' capacity for designing, implementing, and interpreting evaluations; to determine whether youth-led delinquency and substance use prevention activities have more of an impact on youth than adult-led prevention; and to define the critical elements of implementing a successful youth-led prevention activity. The evaluation should address the following research questions:

1. What effects do these youth-led prevention activities and services have on youth participants who receive program services? How do they compare with the effects of adult-led prevention activities and services?
2. What are the key elements of organizing and implementing effective youth-led prevention activities and services?

**Objectives:** The objectives of this evaluation are:

1. To conduct an evaluability assessment of up to 12 local program grantees, including a cross-site

evaluation, and select a sample of programs for the evaluation.

2. To provide assistance to local program grantees on refining program goals and objectives; articulating logical relationships between youth substance use problems, prevention activities and services; and tracking and measuring success.

3. To describe the key organizational components and processes involved in implementing youth-led prevention activities and services.

4. To document the prevention activities and services provided by the youth.

5. To compare the effects of youth-led prevention services on youth with those of adult-led services.

**Program Strategy:** Applicants must provide a clear discussion of the research questions for the evaluation. The evaluation grantee will be required to conduct an evaluability assessment of up to 12 local program grantees, recommending for participation in the national evaluation grantee programs from which lessons can be learned. As part of the assessment, the evaluation grantee will be responsible for working with the local grantee programs to develop program logic models and identify outcome measures and data collection methods, tailored to each grantee's program design, which will serve as a basis for the overall evaluation strategy. The evaluation grantee also will be responsible for developing data collection instruments, coordinating the data collection with the program grantees, gathering the data collected by the grantees, and conducting analyses that will answer the questions associated with the goals and objectives stated earlier. Applicants should describe how they will use existing self-evaluation materials, such as Prevention Plus III, to assist local program grantees in data collection. Applicants should provide a description of how they will make comparisons with adult-led prevention services.

OJJDP and the Council recognize that it will be difficult for applicants to propose a detailed evaluation design in the absence of more information about the specific approaches to be implemented by the local communities. For that reason, the evaluation grantee will be expected to develop a detailed evaluation plan during the first 60 days after the grant award, based on more detailed information about the local grantees' programs. It is intended that the evaluation of this program will be accomplished through a partnership effort among the grantees, OJJDP, the Council, and the evaluation grantee.

*Products:* The evaluation grantee is required to prepare four products:

1. A final evaluation design, including the results of the evaluability assessment, not later than 60 days following the award of the grant.

2. A draft outline of the structure for the final report not later than six months after the award of the grant.

3. A final evaluation report, not later than 30 days following the end of the project year, detailing the results of the study. The report must include a full discussion of the evaluation objectives, study findings, and recommendations for program implementation.

4. An executive summary of the final evaluation report suitable for widespread distribution.

*Eligibility Requirements:* OJJDP invites applications from public and private agencies, organizations, institutions, and individuals. Applicants must demonstrate technical knowledge of evaluation methods and tools; their practical knowledge of substance use prevention among juveniles; and their skills for assisting those who must develop and make decisions about program directions. Private, for-profit organizations must agree to waive any profit or fee. Joint applications from two or more eligible applicants are welcome, as long as one is designated primary applicant and any others co-applicant.

*Selection Criteria:* Applicants will be evaluated and ranked by a peer review panel according to the criteria outlined below.

#### *Problem(s) To Be Addressed (20 Points)*

Applicants must include a clear and concise statement of their understanding of youth substance use prevention, youth-led prevention programs, community-based prevention, and evaluation methods. They should also discuss the methodological problems associated with this type of evaluation and how the proposed effort overcomes these potential problems.

#### *Project Design (35 Points)*

Applicants must present a clear research design for the conduct of an evaluability assessment and a formative process and outcome evaluation that meet the goals and objectives in this solicitation. The research design should also include a workplan for the conduct of these tasks. The research design and workplan must be sound, feasible, and capable of achieving the objectives set forth in this solicitation. The applicant should describe as completely as possible the research products and how they will be disseminated.

#### *Management and Organizational Capability (35 Points)*

The application should include a discussion of how the grantee will coordinate and manage this evaluation to achieve the evaluation objectives. Applicants' management structure and staffing must be adequate and appropriate for the successful implementation of the project. Applicants must identify responsible individuals, their time commitment, and major tasks. Key staff should have significant experience with multi-site evaluation/research of community-based initiatives, youth substance use prevention, and/or juvenile or related criminal justice programs. They must demonstrate the ability to work effectively with practitioners in data collection and analysis issues and other requirements of the project. Staff resumes should be attached as part of the appendices. Applicants must demonstrate the organization's ability to conduct the project successfully. Organizational experience with evaluation of community-based prevention initiatives is recommended.

#### *Budget (10 Points)*

Applicants must provide a proposed budget that is complete, detailed, reasonable, and allowable, and cost effective in relation to the activities to be undertaken.

*Format:* The narrative must not exceed 25 pages in length (excluding forms, assurances, and appendices) and must be submitted on 8<sup>1/2</sup>- by 11-inch paper, double-spaced on one side of the paper in a standard 12 point font.

*Award Period:* This project will be funded for an 18 month budget and project period.

*Award Amount:* Up to \$180,000 is available to support one evaluation grant.

*Application Instructions and Contact:* To apply for this grant, applicants must complete an Application Kit which includes detailed instructions, forms, checklists, worksheets, and application forms. To have the Application Kit or a copy of this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) faxed to you, call OJJDP's Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at 1-800-638-8739, select option #2 for automated ordering services, then select option #2 again for OJJDP Clearinghouse documents, then select fax on demand, then select document #9023 for the Application Kit and/or document #9022 for the Evaluation NOFA.

To have the Application Kit or the Evaluation NOFA mailed to you, call 1-800-638-8736, select option #3 for publication ordering, then request

publication #SL0001888 for the Application Kit and/or publication #SL000187 for the Evaluation NOFA.

An Application Kit or the Evaluation NOFA may be obtained electronically by accessing OJJDP's bulletin board at 301-738-8895 (set modem at 9600 Baud and 8-N-1) or by accessing OJJDP's world wide web site at <http://www.ncjrs.org/ojjhome.html>.

*Application Submission and Deadline:* All required forms and documentation must be submitted by the application deadline to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, c/o Juvenile Justice Resource Center, 1600 Research Boulevard, Mail Stop 2K, Rockville, MD 20850, 301-251-5535.

Note: In the lower left-hand corner of the envelope, you must clearly write "Substance Use Prevention Program Evaluation."

All applications must be received, not postmarked, by the submission deadline.

The deadline date for submission of an application is on or before 5:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on April 25, 1997.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the original and five copies of the application package are received at the OJJDP address by that deadline date. No facsimiles are allowed.

*Contact:* For further information call Eric Peterson, Program Manager, Research and Program Development Division, 202-307-5929 or send an email inquiry to [eric@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:eric@ojp.usdoj.gov).

Dated: February 10, 1997.

Shay Bilchik,

*Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.*

#### References

- Kaye, G. and T. Wolff (eds.) From the Ground Up: A Workbook on Coalition Building and Community Development. Amherst, MA: AHEC/Community Partners, Spring 1995.
- Kumpfer, K., G. H. Shur, J. G. Ross, K. K. Bunnell, J. J. Librett, and A. R. Millward. Measurements in Prevention: A Manual on Selecting and Using Instruments to Evaluate Prevention Programs. CSAP Technical Report No. 8. Rockville, MD: Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, 1993.
- Linney, J. A. and A. Wandersman. Prevention Plus III: Assessing Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programs at the School and Community Level. Rockville, MD: Office of Substance Abuse Prevention, 1991.

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