

Title V: Fact Sheet

The mission of the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) is to promote safety, stability and well-being for people who have experienced or been exposed to violence, neglect or trauma. FYSB achieves this through supporting programs that provide shelter, community services and prevention education for youth, adults and families.

Purpose

The Title V State Youth Empowerment Program provides funding to states and territories for Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) education, and where appropriate, mentoring, counseling and adult supervision to promote healthy relationship development, life management skills and delay of sexual activity. Projects focus on groups most likely to bear children outside of a two parent committed marriage relationship. Groups include, but are not limited to, youth between the ages of 10 and 19, who are homeless, in foster care, live in rural areas or geographic areas with high teen birth rates, or come from racial or ethnic minority groups.

History

Title V funding originated from the 1996 Welfare Reform and Social Responsibility Act.

Services

Grantees use evidence-based models to promote youth empowerment and sexual risk avoidance (SRA) by strengthening beliefs supporting protective factors, coaching, healthy relationship development skills, teaching skills to resist peer pressure, and educating young people about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. Projects support decisions to not be involved in sexual activity by providing supportive programming as defined by Section 510(b) of the Social Security Act.

Medical Accuracy

All projects must be medically accurate. Medical accuracy means that medical information must be verified or supported by the weight of research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific methods and published in peer-reviewed journals or be comprised of information that leading professional organizations and agencies with relevant expertise in the field recognize as accurate, objective, and complete.

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Measuring Effectiveness

FYSB encourages States to consider the following practices in implementing effective youth empowerment Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) programs:

1. Having a sound theoretical framework
2. Conducting at least 14 hours of programming implemented over a long period of time
3. Encouraging and fostering peer support of decisions to delay sexual activity
4. Selecting qualified educators, training them, and providing monitoring, supervision and support
5. Involving multiple people with expertise in theory, research and sex education to develop the curriculum

FYSB will provide states with program-related objective outcome measures designed to measure behavior, attitudes, knowledge and beliefs of young people served.

Grant Award Process

FYSB distributes Title V funds based on the proportion of low-income children in each state or territory. States must fund at least 43 percent of the project's total cost with non-federal resources.