



Fact Sheet:

Friday Night Live, Club Live, Friday Night Live Kids, & Friday Night Live Mentoring



The Friday Night Live (FNL) program was established in 1984 as a high school program to reduce underage drinking and driving and to promote a teenage lifestyle free of alcohol and other drugs.

The mission of FNL is to build partnerships for positive and healthy youth development that engage youth as active leaders and resources in their communities. Youth involved in FNL have the opportunity to develop programming skills and plan activities in concert with their peers and adult advisors. FNL programs are youth-driven; therefore, providing meaningful roles for youth in the program. FNL builds community partnerships that support youth, helping to foster a sense of autonomy and power, and promote the belief in a young person's capacity to contribute. In supporting the holistic development of youth, FNL has gone above and beyond the message of prevention.

FNL is motivated by youth-adult partnerships that create essential and powerful community activities that enhance and improve their environments. Some activities include educating policy-making officials, providing safe social outlets for youth, and hosting training and conferences on varying issues from leadership to social factors that contribute to substance abuse. FNL chapters offer participants the opportunity to connect to their school and/or community through skill-building activities and caring relationships in environments free of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and violence.

FNL currently has 330 chapters throughout California. These chapters are

predominately in high schools, but are also located in recreation centers, juvenile detention facilities and alcohol/drug recovery centers. With a majority of the over 100,000 participants in high school chapters, FNL is one of the largest campus clubs in California.

Club Live (CL) is an extension of the successful FNL program and is aimed at middle school students. CL fosters resiliency and protective factors through the development of action-oriented chapters in which positive activities are planned and implemented by young people working together with adults.

The CL program currently includes 325 chapters throughout California, reaching over 86,000 students. The connection to the high school FNL program promotes exciting and secure activities for CL participants through continued involvement on the high school level. FNL members gain mentoring experience and build on the benefits they add to the community.

More recently, FNL has expanded to include FNL Kids, a program for youth in 4th-6th grades. With a focus on bicycle safety and helmet laws, FNL Kids promotes positive youth development and adds continuity to the entire system. Currently, 131 chapters of FNL Kids are reaching over 57,000 students across the State.

Fifty-six of California's 58 counties have FNL, CL and/or FNL Kids programs, which are uniquely designed to meet the needs of the young people in diverse communities.

FNL and Youth Development

In 1998 FNL began the process of applying the best practices and research to transition to a “youth development” model. Youth development is the ongoing process that engages young people in building skills, attitudes, knowledge and experiences that prepare them for the present and the future. It also facilitates their efforts to become fully prepared, capable and competent individuals. The goal is to promote developmental outcomes, not just problem prevention or achievement outcomes.

FNL Mentoring

Mentoring has been introduced as a component of FNL and CL programs. In 1998, five counties began a field test of the FNL cross-age mentor model. Currently, the number of counties participating has expanded to 27, totaling 81 chapters, and reaching about 1,650 youth. Each county adheres to certain quality assurance standards and a standardized science-based curriculum, while maintaining local creativity and energy. The primary objectives of the FNL Mentoring are to promote positive youth development, decrease alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, and ease the transition of middle school students into high school. The FNL Mentoring model engages high school-aged youth (10th – 12th grade) to mentor middle school-aged youth (7th and 8th grade) in a structured and ongoing mentoring relationship.

FNL Methamphetamine Prevention Initiative Projects

Funding for Methamphetamine prevention projects has become available in 2007. Eleven counties have been selected to implement county wide youth driven Meth prevention initiatives. The projects work to develop a community engaged initiative, utilizing a community organized approach and environmental and community level

interventions and partnerships in prevention, treatment and other stakeholders. The strategies are primarily targeted toward high school and college aged students. The objective is to engage youth and their adult allies to be advocates of change; by raising community awareness about the risks and impact of the Meth problem, by informing others about existing resources and networks, and by promoting policy level changes. Each county has a Meth Action Team (MAT) coalition to bring together the variety of stakeholders and concerned citizens to develop and implement an action plan, program strategy and policy level interventions.

FNL Gambling Awareness and Prevention

The recent increase of online gambling, poker nights, expanding casinos, and sports betting among youth have put this generation at risk for gambling addiction..... through ADP and the Office of Problem Gambling, the California Friday Night Live Partnership has the opportunity to stand up against this new threat.

Our “**Betting on Our Future**” media campaign is youth based and intended to empower our young people to raise awareness of problem gambling and cause change in their communities. FNL youth are responsible for scripting, coordinating, and producing live dramatic performances and video projects to communicate the risks and signs of problem gambling among youth. FNL participants also have the opportunity to create gambling themed artwork. The artwork is used in informational brochures and handouts geared toward parents to inform them of the warning signs of problem gambling and the resources available to help their families. FNL has also developed supplemental classroom curriculum and activities to educate 4th – 6th grade students on the risks and consequences of gambling.

FNL and Traffic Safety

Friday Night Live programs have a long history of tackling youth related traffic safety issues, such as bicycle/helmet safety, seat belt safety and drinking driver awareness. Youth driven traffic safety campaigns and projects are an important component of FNL, CL, KIDS, and Mentoring programs and a positive approach to increasing the safety and well being of youth.

California Youth Council

The California Youth Council (CYC) is a group of approximately twelve youth, reflective of California's youth population, who work together to bring youth voice to important issues affecting young people. They bring their prevention experiences from geographically diverse counties together to inform and support state level issues and the efforts of the California Friday Night Live Partnership.

California Friday Night Live Partnership

In March 1996, the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs began contracting out the statewide coordination of the FNL programs to the Tulare County Office of Education, which resulted in the formation of the California Friday Night Live Partnership (CFNLP). Services provided to county FNL/CL/FNL Kids/FNL Mentoring programs include:

- Program design and development assistance;
- Technical assistance and training to incorporate the youth development and FNL Mentor models;
- Development and distribution of research materials on innovative youth programs;
- Support for the involvement of youth in all phases of program planning and implementation;
- Identification of new and existing cultural and geographically diverse youth

organizations to work with the CFNLP in the design of new programs;

- Conducting routine evaluations to assess progress, and to refine, improve and strengthen program effectiveness;
- Use of web technology to serve as a forum for youth, provide resources on prevention information, and function as a network for FNL county coordinators to access programmatic information.

The Youth Leadership Institute, and the California Friday Night Live Collaborative (CFNLC) are now formally connected to the CFNLP to provide more integrated services. CFNLC is responsible for the Members In Good Standing process that supports local programs in implementing the Standards of Practice for positive youth development.

For more information regarding FNL, CL, FNL Kids and FNL Mentoring programs, please contact the CFNLP at (559) 733-6496 or the CFNLP Web site: www.fridaynightlive.org.