



Fact Sheet:



State Incentive Grant

Overview

Through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), California was awarded a \$12 million federal grant of \$4 million per year over three years to strengthen county prevention systems. Specifically, California's State Incentive Grant (SIG) program will use evidence-based, environmental prevention programs and strategies to reduce binge drinking and related community problems among 12-25 year olds.

The goal of the California SIG is to assist 13 selected counties as they:

- 1) *Develop and implement environmental prevention programs and strategies that optimize the use of State and Federal substance abuse prevention funding streams and resources.*
- 2) *Implement specific and unique programs and strategies using science-based prevention practices that focus on youth and young adults ages 12-25.*
- 3) *Reduce past 30-day binge drinking, and related community impact, among youth and young adults.*
- 4) *Focus on local and statewide evaluation of county binge drinking prevention programs.*

Binge Drinking

Studies establish that binge drinking is a serious problem among California's youth. According to the Committee on Developing a Strategy to Reduce and Prevent Underage Drinking, there are significant consequences associated with binge drinking. These include the threat to long-term development and well-being, increased incidence of traffic crashes, as well as other problem behaviors including violence, suicide, and educational failure that affect the community as well as the individual.

The latest *California Student Survey (CSS) on Alcohol and Drug Use for Grades 7, 9, and 11* contains descriptive statistics about the incidence of binge drinking. The CSS uses a high degree of scientific rigor to collect and analyze trends over an extended number of years. The CSS report found that adolescent alcohol use, especially binge drinking, is clearly prevalent in California. Aligning the prevalence data with the fact that one in eight Americans between the ages of 12-25 is a Californian, justifies using the California SIG to address this widespread problematic behavior.

County SIG Projects

Through a competitive bid process in 2004, the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) awarded

13 county alcohol and other drug (AOD) offices a total of approximately \$3.4 million per year for up to three years. Counties – Alameda, Sacramento, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Humboldt, Mono, Stanislaus, Marin, Santa Cruz, Mendocino, Orange, San Diego, and Sonoma - were selected based on their ability to effectively plan and use science-based, environmental prevention strategies to attain measurable outcomes related to SIG objectives.

County AOD offices are working on a range of binge drinking reduction objectives linked to the Governor's Prevention Advisory Council's Binge Drinking Strategic Plan of 2004. All county SIG projects are required to develop coalitions with members such as local government, schools, law enforcement, businesses and other community organizations.

In the first year (2004-2005), the 13 counties completed detailed local needs assessments relative to binge drinking,, submitted prevention plans that contained logic models to carry out their actions, engaged local evaluation contractors for their projects, and prepared to implement their binge drinking reduction strategies between October, 2005 and September, 2007. Results from the California SIG will be available in July, 2008.

Future SIG Opportunities:

California's SIG project is the seventh and final cohort of this federal program. ADP does not anticipate that CSAP will offer SIG grants in the future.