**Introduction**

Substance use among youth and young adults is influenced at each level of the Vermont Prevention Model: individual, relational, organizational, community, and policy/systems-levels. The Regional Prevention Partnerships (RPP) Grant expects to increase the likelihood of positive outcomes by using these federal funds and leveraged local funds to implement evidence-based substance abuse prevention interventions at each level of Vermont Prevention Model. Additionally, the RPP grant hopes to address the health disparities related to substance use by Vermonters identified in these sub-populations: LGBTQ, low socioeconomic status (SES), and military families.

**Goal**

Successful substance use prevention among youth significantly decreases the likelihood of substance abuse and dependence in adulthood. The RPP Grants are aimed at reducing the following:

* Past 30 day alcohol use among adolescents and young adults (ages 12-20)
* Past 30 day binge drinking among adolescents and young adults (ages 12-20)
* Past 30 day marijuana use among adolescents and young adults (ages 12-25)
* Past 30 day prescription drug misuse among adolescents and young adults (ages 12-25)

**Grants Program**

Each Vermont Department of Health (VDH) health district received an RPP Grant: Twelve RPP Lead Agencies were awarded approximately $130,000 each (totaling approximately $1,560,000) to coordinate/provide and enhance substance abuse prevention and early intervention services in their health districts. Six of the health districts had received funding under a previous federal grant (Partnership for Success or PFS). Most of these six RPP Grantees are in process of implementing evidence-based substance abuse prevention activities similar to those implemented under the PFS grant. These districts will receive one more year of funding in FY2018. The other six health districts are in their first year of funding and will receive funding for four more years (FY2018-FY2021). These RPP Grantees are in process completing local assessments, capacity building activities, and developing a regional RPP plan. Once the plan has been developed, these regionals will move into implementation of evidence-based substance abuse prevention and early intervention services. Of special note, the Newport and St Johnsbury Districts also received an additional $23,709 each to complete supplementary capacity building and community mobilization activities.

**Evaluation / Outcomes**

The Regional Prevention Partnerships (RPP) will build upon the success of the Partnership for Success (PFS) grant. The finalized evaluation report for PFS will be available by January 2017. For RPP the following outcomes are being tracked in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS—for students in grades 9-12) and in the Young Adult Survey (YAS—for young adults 18-25).

* Past 30 day alcohol use among adolescents (grades 9-12 | YRBS) and young adults (ages 18-20 | YAS)
* Past 30 day binge drinking among adolescents (grades 9-12 | YRBS) and young adults (ages 18-20 | YAS)
* Past 30 day marijuana use among adolescents (grades 9-12 | YRBS) and young adults (ages 18-25 | YAS)
* Past 30 day prescription drug misuse among adolescents (grades 9-12 | YRBS) and young adults (ages 18-25 | YAS)

**FY2017 Activities**

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| Required Activities | Optional Activities |
| Assessments & Planning   * Complete Local Community Assessments * Update / Complete Regional Plan | **Screening Activities**   * Alcohol Screening (schools, worksites, or colleges) * Marijuana Screening (schools, worksites, or colleges) * School-Based Mental Health/Substance Abuse Screening & Referral |
| Local Policy Enhancements   * Education on Possible Local Alcohol Policies / Ordinances * Education on Possible Local Marijuana Polies / Ordinances * Promotion of Incorporating Health Goals in Town and Regional Plans | **Youth & School Focused Activities**   * Promote DITEP / Youth Mental Health First Aid Trainings * Promote & Implement Evidence-Based Health Curricula * Peer Leadership Groups * Sticker Shock * School-Based Mentoring |
| Promote Best Practices With Local Alcohol Retailers   * Support Department of Liquor Control’s Responsible Beverage Service Trainings * Recognize Retailers for Passing DLC Compliance Checks | **Family Education Programs**   * Family Matters * Guiding Good Choices * Nurturing Parenting Program * Strengthening Families Program 10-14 |
| Enhance Local DUI Enforcement   * Sobriety Check Point * Party/Saturation Patrols * Promoting DRE and ARIDE Training |  |
| Education / Outreach on Proper Storage & Safe Disposal of Prescription Drugs   * Community Outreach * Pharmacists & Prescriber Outreach * Permanent Safe Drop Off Locations * Promote Prescription Drug Take Back Days |  |
| Regional Capacity Building   * Media Advocacy * Promotion of Statewide Media Campaigns * Promote & Implement Cultural Competent Processes |  |