

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Agency awards substance abuse prevention grants to 10 public health units

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division is awarding substance abuse prevention grants to 10 communities and continues to support other community-level prevention efforts by hosting training today and Thursday for other grantees.

New Substance Abuse Prevention Community Grant program funding will be awarded to Cavalier County Health District, Custer Health, Dickey County Health District, Fargo-Cass Public Health, Grand Forks Public Health, Lake Region District Health Unit, Nelson-Griggs District Health Unit, Richland County Health Department, Towner County Public Health District and Walsh County Health District.

Each public health unit will receive about \$70,000 to implement evidence-based substance abuse prevention efforts from November 2017 through September 2018. Communities will identify local data-driven priorities focused on underage drinking, adult binge drinking, and prescription opioid abuse and consequences, and will select evidence-based strategies to implement, such as responsible beverage service training, enforcement activities and prescription drug take back.

"To be effective, prevention efforts must be community-specific, data-driven and involve a multi-faceted approach using proven strategies," the department's Prevention Administrator Laura Anderson said.

While North Dakota ranks fourth in the nation for binge alcohol use among adults age 26 and older, the state is making progress. Anderson said 25.8 percent reported binge drinking in the past 30 days, compared to 22 percent nationally according to the 2013-2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. This is a decrease from 29 percent in 2007-2008.

Local public health units and tribal governments in North Dakota who are not currently funded by the North Dakota Strategic Prevention Framework Partnership for Success Grant or the North Dakota Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant were invited to apply.

The division also continues to support training for other current grantees. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America representatives will be in Mandan today and Thursday to provide free training for Partnership for Success community grantees who are implementing evidence-based substance abuse prevention strategies targeting underage drinking.

Communities interested in implementing substance abuse prevention efforts are encouraged to visit www.prevention.nd.gov or to email the division at ndprmc@nd.gov.

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