

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Human Services hosts underage drinking prevention grant training

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division is hosting training July 11-12 at the Comfort Inn, in Bismarck for ten Partnership for Success grantees. Training supports ongoing efforts to reduce and prevent underage drinking among youth ages 12 to 20.

Participating community grantees include: Upper Missouri Health District (Williams and McKenzie Counties), Southwestern District Health Unit, Rolette County Public Health District, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Wells County District Health Unit, Central Valley Health District, the Spirit Lake Nation, Foster County Public Health, LaMoure County Health Department, and the City-County Health District in Barnes County.

Grantees are expected to plan and carry out proven strategies to prevent and reduce the progression of substance abuse, to reduce substance abuse-related problems, to strengthen local prevention capacity, and to leverage and align resources for prevention. Training participants have already completed a community assessment on underage drinking and have developed a strategic plan identifying evidence-based strategies.

Over the past six years, the division has received federal discretionary funds, which it awarded to communities to help them develop local prevention infrastructure and decrease underage drinking, adult binge drinking, and related consequences.

Prevention efforts are producing results. Between 2009 and 2015, the percentage of North Dakota high school students reporting past 30-day alcohol use declined from 43.3 percent to 30.8 percent.

The Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America will lead the July 11 training on implementation strategies, overcoming barriers, increasing community readiness, identifying local resources, and building and sustaining effective coalitions. On July 12, the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center will train grantees on grant evaluation requirements and federal reporting requirements.

In October 2015, the federal Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration awarded North Dakota a Partnership for Success Grant, providing \$1.6 million per year for five years. Eighty-five percent of the grant funding supports local efforts in high need communities.

The department selected grantees from among communities identified as "high need" based on their population, consumption rate, and other factors including risk factors for underage drinking, who chose to apply for funding. To qualify, grantees also had to have previously been awarded a Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant.

For free resources and information about substance abuse prevention, visit the department's North Dakota Prevention Resource and Media Center at www.prevention.nd.gov and the Parents LEAD program at www.parentslead.org.

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