



801 Program Guidance

Tips on Addressing Health Disparities

This guidance is provided to help you determine the direction of your program and how to effectively navigate change throughout this cooperative agreement.

801 Expectations

The program performance of funding recipients for priorities 2 (HIV Prevention), 3 (CSHP and PANT), and 4 (Asthma Management) will be measured, in part, by the extent to which they provide evidence of implementing school-based programs and prevention strategies to reduce health disparities among youth disproportionately affected by the health risks that recipients are funded to address. Recipients are required to identify youth at greatest risk for the health problems they are funded to address and document how program efforts have focused on meeting the needs of populations that are disproportionately affected.

Please refer to DP08-801 Funding Opportunity Announcement for specific requirements.

Actions to Address Health Disparities

Assess

- Analyze current data to identify which groups of youth are at high risk for targeted health problems or risk behaviors. If local, state, or regional data are not available, consider using national data. Potential documents and data sources to review include:
 - Youth Risk Behavior Survey
 - Guidance documents from DASH or other CDC divisions or federal agencies
 - Data from state and local health departments and hospitals
 - Data from state and local departments of education
 - Data from national, non-governmental organizations (e.g., National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Kids Count, Child Trends)
 - Scientific literature reviews
- Read scientific documents and participate in professional development events to learn more about the causes of

health disparities and about evidence-based strategies for effectively addressing the health issues you are funded to address among specific groups of youth at high risk.

Plan

- Target programmatic efforts and resources to ensure that you reach youth in the highest risk groups.
- Actively involve in program planning efforts youth-serving professionals who have expertise in reaching the high-risk youth populations that you are targeting.
- Actively involve youth at high risk in advisory boards or youth councils that plan programs to address health disparities.

Implement

- Support the design and implementation of evidence-based, culturally- and linguistically-appropriate interventions and programs that focus on youth at highest risk.
- Strengthen and sustain partnerships with agencies and organizations serving youth at highest risk.
- Participate in broad coalitions that work to address the root causes of health disparities (e.g., poverty, racism, disproportionate rates of incarceration, the educational achievement gap).

Evaluate

- Monitor health behaviors among youth at highest risk, and, if possible, school policies and programs that address these behaviors in communities where youth at highest risk reside.
 - Evaluate activities and programs that focus on youth at highest risk and use findings to improve programmatic efforts.
- Report on efforts to address disparities through the Indicators for School Health, Success Stories, and evaluations of specific activities.
- Disseminate information about program successes, and challenges through a variety of media (e.g., websites, conference presentations, press conferences).