PURPOSE

The purpose of the Title V Competitive Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) Program is to competitively fund projects to implement prevention education with messages to youth that normalize the optimal health behavior of avoiding non-marital sexual activity, with a focus on the future health, psychological well-being, and economic success of youth. Further, the plans must address the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by refraining from non-marital sexual activity and engaging in healthy relationships.

SERVICES

Grantees use an evidence-based approach and/or effective strategies to educate youth on how to avoid risks that could lead to non-marital sexual activity and other risky behaviors. Title V Competitive SRAE projects are implemented using a Positive Youth Development (PYD) framework as part of risk avoidance strategies, to help participants develop healthy life skills, increase individual protective factors that reduce risks, make healthy decisions, engage in healthy relationships, and set goals that lead to self-sufficiency and marriage before engaging in sexual activity. Linking program participants to services provided by local community partners that support the safety and well-being of youth is also a key component of the program.

HISTORY

The Title V SRAE Program is authorized and funded by Section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 710), as amended by Section 50502 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Pub. L. No. 115-123).

MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS

To ensure effective sexual risk avoidance programming, Title V Competitive grantees select interventions and/or strategies that address the following topics:

1. The holistic individual and societal benefits associated with personal responsibility, self-regulation, goal setting, healthy decision-making, and a focus on the future.
2. The advantage of refraining from non-marital sexual activity in order to improve the future prospects, and physical and emotional health of youth.
3. The increased likelihood of avoiding poverty when youth attain self-sufficiency and emotional maturity before engaging in sexual activity.
4. The foundational components of healthy relationships and their impact on the formation of healthy marriages and safe and stable families.
5. How other youth risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol usage, increase the risk for teen sex.
6. How to resist and avoid, and receive help regarding sexual coercion and dating violence, recognizing that even with consent teen sex remains a youth risk behavior.
Title V SRAE legislation requires research and evaluation efforts. To support such efforts, FYSB will provide grantees with technical support to participate in a range of evaluation and data collection projects, to include the following:

- National Descriptive Study of program implementation and youth outcomes
- Program Components Impact Study, to identify effective Title V SRAE program components
- Data and Evaluation Support to support grantee data capacity building and local evaluation support

**GRANT AWARD PROCESS**

In FY 2018, organizations and entities in states and territories that had not applied for sexual risk avoidance education grants became eligible to submit competitive applications for funding. These states and territories are Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, District of Columbia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, and Virgin Islands. In FY 2018, a total of $4,762,870 million was awarded to 18 grantees.