



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
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CHARLES D. BAKER
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Secretary

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December 4, 2015

Steven T. James
House Clerk
State House Room 145
Boston, MA 02133

William F. Welch
Senate Clerk
State House Room 335
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Clerk,

Pursuant to Line Item 4590-1506 of Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2015, please find the enclosed report regarding Primary Violence Prevention through Positive Youth Development.

Sincerely,

Monica Bharel, MD, MPH
Commissioner
Department of Public Health

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn Polito
Lieutenant Governor



Marylou Sudders
Secretary

Monica Bharel, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Primary Violence Prevention through Positive Youth Development

December, 2015



The following report is hereby issued pursuant to Line Item 4590-1506 of the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget:

For a competitive grant program to be administered by the department of public health to support the establishment of a comprehensive youth violence prevention program; provided, that eligibility shall be determined by the criteria set forth in item 4590-1506 of section 2 of chapter 182 of the acts of 2008; provided further, that no grants shall be awarded to law enforcement agencies; provided further, that funds shall be considered 1-time and grants may not annualize in fiscal year 2017; and provided further, that the department of public health shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the executive office for administration and finance not later than November 3, 2015, detailing the grant amount awarded to each recipient and a description of each grant

\$1,334,449

Primary Violence Prevention through Positive Youth Development

As part of line-item 4590-1506 of the Fiscal Year 2016 budget, the Department of Public Health (DPH) is required to report to the Legislature on the programs supported through this line item *“detailing the grant amount awarded to each recipient and a description of each grant.”* This report is in response to this mandate.

The DPH Youth Violence Prevention Services Program provided funding to community-based initiatives across the state working to prevent youth violence. In the second half of Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, DPH reconceived the Youth Violence Prevention program and the existing Youth-At-Risk Program to further align the two grant programs to work in conjunction with one another to ensure a rich diversity in programming for youth, rooted in positive youth development best practices across the Commonwealth.

As a result of this realignment, DPH re-procured both programs through one RFR that included both funding streams. The grant related to youth violence prevention was renamed Primary Violence Prevention through Positive Youth Development and now supports programs providing services deemed primary prevention. The grant focuses on both “hotspot” communities and communities that may not qualify as a “hotspot” community, which is often the threshold for receipt of other programs and assistance, but still faces significant challenges with personal/community violence. This includes areas that may border “hotspot” communities and report problems of spill-over from neighboring towns/cities or areas lacking in sufficient violence prevention services.

Programs funded under the Primary Violence Prevention Grant primarily serve youth aged 10 to 17. The redesign of this grant program has allowed the Primary Violence Prevention grant to minimize duplication of efforts and work in concert with other state youth violence prevention funding programs by focusing on populations not specifically served by other funding streams. These other programs include: Youth At Risk Grants - Secondary and Tertiary Youth Violence Prevention through Positive Youth Development (4590-1507, with a total of 36 programs funded under this initiative), the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, and the Shannon Grants overseen by the Executive Office of Public Safety. The full spectrum of prevention, from primary prevention to intervention and, when necessary, suppression, is addressed by these programs.

Through the procurement, the Primary Violence Prevention Grant currently supports 20 programs across the state. Programs funded under this grant address: school violence, witnessing violence, gang violence, sexual violence, teen dating and/or domestic violence exposures, workplace violence, self-injury, and bullying/harassment. Community-based programs focus on elementary, middle, and high school aged young people. The service population may include both in-school and out-of-school youth (including youth who are suspended, expelled, or who have dropped out of school). Funded providers work in high risk communities across the Commonwealth – high risk can be defined geographically (areas acutely impacted by violence), in terms of racial/ethnic minority status (recognizing some racial/ethnic groups are disproportionately impacted by violence), housing status (homeless/unaccompanied youth), differently abled, immigration/refugee status, sexual orientation/gender identity or other characteristics as some populations are at far greater risk of violence and victimization.

Programs utilize *evidence-based* youth development strategies including Mentoring programs; Afterschool/Out-of-school time programs; Dropout prevention; Employment readiness programs; Financial literacy programs; Youth leadership development programs; Conflict resolution programs; Street/Youth worker outreach; Case management; Arts and Self-Expression; Civic engagement and the inclusion of youth in all aspects of program development.

Safe Spaces for LGBTQ Youth, a program supporting eight community-based providers through this account, was in its final year of procurement in fiscal year 2015. Program activities for Safe Spaces for LGBTQ are only partially supported by line item 4590-1506. A new Safe Spaces for LGBTQ youth procurement started on October 1st, 2015. The list of these providers for FY16 who provide youth development and leadership building as well as sanctuary space for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning youth, is provided in the attached spreadsheet. Please note that the FY15 Safe Spaces grant was extended for three months into FY16.

The attached spreadsheet shows provider names, target communities and populations, and funding levels. There are two separate funding columns in this spread sheet. One is for the three month extension of FY15, while the second represents the new procurement for the Safe Spaces initiative, starting October 1st 2015.