

Keeping Schools and Communities Safe and Drug-Free

~ With a 10% increase in alcohol licensing fees, approximately \$1.2 million in revenue can be generated annually to keep schools and communities safe and drug free.

~ School- and Community-based services currently eliminated due to state and federal funding cuts could be restored to help keep the children, youth, families and communities of Washington State safe and drug free.

School-based Services

The Student Assistance Prevention Intervention Services Program (SAPISP)

provides screening, counseling and case management services to students who are at-risk and/or harmfully involved with alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

In the 2009-10 school year, more than 17,000 students received substance abuse services through the SAPISP. Of these students, over 50% were struggling academically and at risk of dropping out of school.

The SAPISP is research-based and has consistently had positive impacts, including a 26% reduction in binge drinking and 28% reduction in marijuana use. The program also was responsible for a 27% reduction in school suspensions and a 22% reduction in fighting at school.

With the loss of \$970,000 of state funding, \$2,380,000 of federal Title IV Safe and Drug Free School dollars, and \$700,000 of local district funding, the budget for SAPISP was reduced by 50% for the 2010-11 school year.

The impact on building-level services has been devastating. The funding cuts forced the elimination of school-based substance abuse prevention and intervention services in 70 districts and over 200 schools.

With restorative funding, services could be restored to 30 schools, with anticipated services provided for 4,500 students.

Community-based Services

The Community Mobilization Against Substance Abuse and Violence Program (CM)

works with education, law enforcement, local government, treatment, parents and others to reduce substance abuse and violence in communities.

In 2009-10, more than 175,000 youth and adults received prevention services individually, in families, in schools, and in communities using the Communities that Care® prevention system.

An example of CM services is the research-based Strengthening Families Program, which reduces substance abuse in adolescents and has consistently had positive impacts, including a 97% reduction in family tension in 2010-2011. The program was delivered in 20 counties and has an \$8 benefit for dollar cost.

With the loss of \$1,094,000 of state funding and \$947,000 of federal Title IV Safe and Drug Free School and Communities dollars, the budget for this program was reduced by 67% for the 2010-11 year.

The funding cuts resulted in the elimination or reduction of community organizers in 31 counties and there is an anticipated reduction in prevention services to 116,000 children, youth, and families.

With restorative funding, services could be restored in all 39 counties, with anticipated services provided for 18,000 individuals.

For more information about these programs, visit WASAVP at www.WASAVP.org.



