

Policy Brief.....Abstinence Education

FEDERAL ABSTINENCE PROGRAMS

There are three federal programs that fund abstinence-only education:

ADOLESCENT FAMILY LIFE (TITLE XX)

Enacted: 1981 as Title XX of the Public Health Services Act (P.L. 97-35).

Source of funds: Yearly HHS appropriations, with a portion earmarked for abstinence

Administered by: Office of Population Affairs under HHS.

Website: http://opa.osophs.dhhs.gov/xxgrants/02jan/prev/afl_prev_01-2002.html

TITLE V BLOCK GRANTS

Enacted: 1996 through Welfare Reform bill section 912 of Public Law 104-193.

Source of funds: Authorized mandatory appropriation to states of \$250 million over five years (FY98-FY02), temporarily extended by Congress.

Matching requirement: States must match every \$4 in federal funds with \$3 in state funds.

Administered by: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under HHS.

Website: <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/adolescents/abstinence.htm>

TITLE V SPRANS DIRECT GRANTS (Special Projects of Regional and National Significance)

Enacted: Advanced funded for FY01 in 2000 supplemental approps bill (P.L. 106-246).

Source of funds: Yearly HHS appropriations

Administered by: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under HHS

Website: <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/adolescents/abstinence.htm#sprans>

“For children to realize their dreams, they must learn the value of abstinence. We must send them the message that of the many decisions they will make in their lives, choosing to avoid early sex is one of the most important. We must stress that abstinence isn’t just about saying no to sex; it’s about saying yes to a happier, healthier future.”

—Governor George W. Bush
www.georgebush.com/issues/abstinenceedu.html

“When our children face a choice between self-restraint and self-destruction, government should not be neutral. Government should not sell children short by assuming they are incapable of acting responsibly. We must promote the good choices”

— President George W. Bush
February 26, 2002

RECENT FUNDING HISTORY

FY04 BUSH BUDGET *REQUEST*:

- \$73 million for Title V SPRANS direct payments
- \$50 million for Title V Welfare Reform HRSA-block grants
- \$12 million for Title XX Adolescent and Family Life funding

\$135 million total for FY03 abstinence funding

FY03 ABSTINENCE FUNDING:

- \$55 million for Title V SPRANS direct payments
- \$50 million for Title V Welfare Reform HRSA-block grants
- \$12 million for Title XX Adolescent and Family Life funding

\$117 million total for FY03 abstinence funding

FY02 ABSTINENCE FUNDING:

- \$40 million for Title V SPRANS direct payments (\$30 million of this was advanced funded from last year plus \$10 million in H.R. 3061)
- \$50 million under Title V Welfare Reform HRSA-block grants
- \$12 million under Title XX Adolescent and Family Life funding. (According to program administrators, language earmarking \$10.157 million for (A)-(H) programs out of \$12 million for abstinence was left in the appropriations bill but the full \$12 million was spent on (A)-(H) compliant programs.)

\$102 million total for FY02 abstinence funding

FY01 ABSTINENCE FUNDING:

- \$20 million for Title V SPRANS direct payments (*first year of program*)
- \$50 million under Title V Welfare Reform HRSA-block grants
- \$10.157 million under Title XX Adolescent and Family Life funding for abstinence-until-marriage, out of \$12 million total for abstinence to account for a multi-year grant that did not comply with (A)-(H)

\$80.157 million total for FY01 abstinence funding

“ABSTINENCE EDUCATION”
AS DEFINED IN THE WELFARE REFORM LAW
(often referred to as “A through H language”)

H.R.3734: Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Enrolled Bill
(Sent to President), signed 8/22/1996 Became Public Law No: 104-193.

SEC. 912. ABSTINENCE EDUCATION.

Title V of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following section:

SEPARATE PROGRAM FOR ABSTINENCE EDUCATION

SEC. 510. (a) For the purpose described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall, for fiscal year 1998 and each subsequent fiscal year, allot to each State which has transmitted an application for the fiscal year under section 505(a) an amount equal to the product of--

- (1) the amount appropriated in subsection (d) for the fiscal year; and
- (2) the percentage determined for the State under section 502(c)(1)(B)(ii).

(b)(1) The purpose of an allotment under subsection (a) to a State is to enable the State to provide abstinence education, and at the option of the State, where appropriate, mentoring, counseling, and adult supervision to promote abstinence from sexual activity, with a focus on those groups which are most likely to bear children out-of-wedlock.

(2) For purposes of this section, the term 'abstinence education' means an educational or motivational program which—

(A) has as its exclusive purpose, teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;

(B) teaches abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage as the expected standard for all school age children;

(C) teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems;

(D) teaches that a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in context of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity;

(E) teaches that sexual activity outside of the context of marriage is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects;

(F) teaches that bearing children out-of-wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents, and society;

(G) teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances; and

(H) teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.

(c)(1) Sections 503, 507, and 508 apply to allotments under subsection (a) to the same extent and in the same manner as such sections apply to allotments under section 502(c).

(2) Sections 505 and 506 apply to allotments under subsection (a) to the extent determined by the Secretary to be appropriate.

(d) For the purpose of allotments under subsection (a), there is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, an additional \$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2002. The appropriation under the preceding sentence for a fiscal year is made on October 1 of the fiscal year.

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