

**California Department of Public Health
Safe and Active Communities Branch
Violence Prevention Unit
Domestic Violence Training and Education Program**

**Domestic Violence/Teen Dating Violence Primary Prevention
Community Mobilization Project**

Project Overview

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Safe and Active Communities Branch (SACB), Violence Prevention Unit (VPU), *Domestic Violence Training and Education Program (DVTEP)* is currently funding (2014-2018) local domestic violence organizations to implement and evaluate domestic violence and teen dating violence (DV/TDV) primary prevention projects utilizing the Close to Home (C2H) community mobilization strategy, with a special focus on youth ages 11-18.

The DVTEP sponsors activities that strengthen the capacity of local organizations to provide comprehensive DV/TDV primary prevention programs in communities across the state. The DVTEP: 1) provides technical assistance and training (TAT); 2) funds local projects; and 3) disseminates best practices statewide. These components build upon and enhance existing DV/TDV primary prevention efforts in California, and contribute to building a stronger evidence base for future work by deepening understanding of best practices that can prevent first-time perpetration of relationship violence.

The primary goal of the DV/TDV Primary Prevention Community Mobilization Project is to provide structure and support for organizations to engage in organizational change that supports emerging strategies and innovations in DV/TDV prevention, youth leadership development and social change, and to engage community leaders in creating solutions for DV/TDV prevention through a community mobilization process. Funded projects will integrate the C2H community mobilization strategy into current DV/TDV primary prevention efforts, and develop formalized documentation and evaluation that can be shared with others working in this field. Toward this end, the structure of this project is designed to establish a learning community that is informed through the provision of intensive technical assistance and training on implementation and evaluation of C2H, on core primary prevention concepts and best practices, and through the sharing of experiences and insights of project contractors. Funded projects will participate in varied and intensive TAT activities with state and national experts on DV/TDV primary prevention including: in-person trainings; onsite TAT; webinars; networking meetings; coaching calls; and statewide convenings. Funded projects will also participate in the formal documentation and evaluation of their project, including the development of project case studies.

To strengthen the learning of community mobilization for DV/TDV prevention in varied communities, VPU specifically funded two rural and two urban projects, including the following:

Rural Projects: Tahoe SAFE Alliance (Nevada and Placer Counties);
YWCA Monterey County (Monterey County)

Urban Projects: Center for the Pacific-Asian Family, Inc. (Los Angeles County);
The University Corporation dba Strength United (Los Angeles County)

Close to Home (C2H) Community Mobilization Strategy

Funded projects will be implementing the C2H community mobilization strategy, which is defined as a community driven process that engages youth, adults and organizational leaders to develop and implement local prevention strategies. The C2H community mobilization process will be adapted to the context of the selected programs and communities to:

- a. Build a strong, active network of community members and organizations committed to fostering community-wide responsibility for DV/TDV;
- b. Develop local community leadership to identify, develop and implement local prevention projects; and
- c. Transform environmental factors and social norms to prevent initial perpetration of DV/TDV.

Project staff will be trained to implement the C2H community mobilization process and principles to build a network of community members engaged in DV/TDV primary prevention. The process includes:

- a. Assess: engage in a process of inquiry and research to understand the local context, learn about the prevalence of DV/TDV and identify community talents, resources, and assets to mobilize for primary prevention;
- b. Talk: convene youth and other community members for discussions to raise awareness, foster critical thinking and dialogue, identify solutions, and recruit volunteers;
- c. Build skills: facilitate training and team building to support skill and leadership development in violence prevention; and
- d. Act: community members develop DV/TDV primary prevention projects to implement in the community.

Organizations that learn and implement this strategy will increase and strengthen: relationships with a broad base of constituencies in their community; visibility in their local community; and community organizing and prevention skills. Outcomes sought with community members through implementation will include increases in: community connectedness; leadership skills and civic participation; knowledge and attitudes related to violence in relationships, healthy relationships, and gender roles; and changes in behavior related to relationships and intervening as bystanders.

Youth Leadership Development

A critical aspect of this project is to engage youth as partners in meaningful activities with other community members that contribute to the community mobilization process. This includes activities such as community mapping, administering surveys, building relationships with key community allies, and presenting at community venues.

There will be varied levels of opportunities and involvement from youth in the project, and it is understood that not all youth will participate in ongoing activities. However, one aspect is the intent to build a core group of youth that intend to participate as a team for the four-year contract period, creating opportunities to strengthen their leadership capacity over time and for

these youth to forge mentor relationships with younger youth in subsequent years as the project progresses. Toward this end, participating youth are required to:

- Participate in an initial two-three day orientation (can be split into single days per week) on project goals and objectives, fundamentals of DV/TDV prevention, etc.;
- Participate in ongoing project activities for a minimum of two hours per week;
- Complete all required evaluation documentation; and
- Attend occasional one-day community events.

Projects will receive specialized technical assistance and resources to support the youth orientation process, and the development of core competencies necessary to engage youth as partners in this work.

Project Funding

This project is funded through the Domestic Violence Training and Education Fund (batterer's fines), with additional funding from Blue Shield of California Foundation.

For Additional Information

Please contact Nancy Bagnato, MPH, Coordinator, Violence Prevention Unit, at nancy.bagnato@cdph.ca.gov for additional information.