

## Program # 40007 - Students Today Aren't Ready for Sex (STARS)

Priority:EducationProgram Offer Type:Existing OperatingRelated Programs:School Aged Policy Framework

# Lead Agency: Program Contact:

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## **Executive Summary**

This program supports the Education team strategy designed to breakdown barriers to educational success. Parenting teens face significant challenges to succeeding in school. Research indicates young people who delay sexual involvement until the age of 16.5 they are more likely to protect themselves from pregnancy and disease. This program gives students the skills and confidence to delay sexual involvement.

It also improves health and access to information and resources for 10,000 students in 6th, 8th, and 10th grade in five of the six school districts (49 schools total) in Multnomah County. The program uses three strategies: youth development and leadership training; parent involvement; and classroom sexuality education.

#### **Program Description**

The STARS Pregnancy Prevention Program for 6th graders is designed to delay early sexual activity by training teen leaders to provide 5 sexuality education sessions that focus on media influences, correcting misconceptions about teen sexual activity, and building skills to refuse peer pressure. 1) Youth Development and Leadership Training: The STARS pregnancy prevention program engages teens in discussions and activities that allows them to build skills and confidence in healthy decision making, planning for the future, self risk assessment, and talk to supporting adults about sexuality. 2) Parent Involvement: Parents are provided with resource information, current teen trends and tips for talking to their child about sex. Prevention of teen-pregnancy helps kids succeed by avoiding the barriers to success that teenparenting can pose. 3) Classroom Sexuality Education: The peer-education and support approach, provided in a school setting, further contributes to ensuring and developing success in school. STARS is culturally and developmentally appropriate and delivered in the schools. They work collaboratively with other services and programs, leveraging community and non-County resources. To maintain these outcomes, research indicates more education is needed to provide reinforcement for older students. For this reason, the STARS program has added an 8th and 10th grade sexuality education program. These programs focus on healthy relationships, the effect of drugs and alcohol on sexual behavior, access to sexual health services provided by School Based Health Clinics (SBHC) and skill development to resist pressure. These programs are research-based, involve parents, age appropriate, medically accurate, and provide the required abstinence component mandated by Oregon State Law.

#### Program Justification

Research shows that teens who delay sexual activity are more likely to have fewer partners and take action to protect themselves against pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Since 1995, statewide evaluations have consistently shown that students who received STARS out-performed students in the control schools on measures of knowledge about sexuality and attitude toward sexual abstinence. The teen pregnancy rate is one of the primary health indicators for a community. In Multnomah County the teen pregnancy rate has continued to decline since the mid 1990s. However, the Multnomah County teen pregnancy rate remains higher than the state's rate and is significantly higher for Hispanic teens. STARS serves the two school districts with the highest Hispanic student population in Multnomah County.

#### Performance Measures

1) Positively impact outcomes known to decrease teen pregnancy: knowledge of the risk and impact of teen pregnancy and STIs, and attitude towards delaying sexual activity. 2) Number of trained teen leaders. 3) Number of students receiving sexuality education annually.

## Summary of last year's program results and this year's expected results

1) The STARS Program showed a positive impact on 6th, 8th, and 10th grade students' knowledge of the risk and impact of teen pregnancy and STIs and attitudes towards delaying sexual activity; the same is expected this year. 2) Trained 250 teen leaders and expect the same this year. 3) Provided 5 hours of sexuality education for 9,082 students last year and expect to serve over 10,000 in the 05/06 school year.

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## Program Mandate: 3 Program Choice but No Funding/Service Level Choice

Contractual agreement with Northwest Family Services (NWFS) indicates that 4,000 8th grade and 2,200 10th grade students must be served.

Contractual agreement with Oregon State Department of Human Services (OSDHS) indicates that Multhomah County must serve all schools that request participation in the 6th grade program.

ORS 336.455 states that schools shall promote abstinence for school age youth as the safest and most responsible sexual behavior yet it shall not be taught to the exclusion of other material and instruction on contraceptive and disease reduction measures.

#### Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2005	2005	2006	2006
Personnel	\$1	\$389,424	\$0	\$397,070
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$33,621	\$0	\$10,929
Internal Services	\$0	\$91,803	\$0	\$106,848
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$1	\$514,848	\$0	\$514,847
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$8,492	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$20,374	\$1,431
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$28,866	\$1,431
Total GF/non-GF:	\$1	\$514,848	\$28,866	\$516,278
Program Total:	\$514,849		\$545,144	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.92
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$39,618	\$0	\$27,594	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$497,694	\$0	\$497,694
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$17,154	\$0	\$17,154
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$20,894	\$1,431
Total Revenue:	\$39,618	\$514,848	\$48,488	\$516,279

### Explanation of Revenues

\$ 394,497 Federal grant revenue received through NWFS. Currently in year 2 of the 3 year grant with possible continuation funding.

\$ 103,197 STARS Project funded by the OSDHS likely to be reduced in 2006

\$17,154 STARS Foundation funding likely to be reduced in 2006

#### Significant Program Changes

We expect to serve an additional 1,000 students and parents in FY05. There is no budget growth expected for FY06.