State Plan Abstract

The overarching goal statement for Nebraska’s Adolescent Health Positive Youth Development (AHPYD)-Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) is for Nebraska adolescents to be empowered to live safe, healthy, and successful lives through relationships with caring and supportive adults guiding them to develop healthy behaviors, healthy relationships and life skills.

Nebraska’s AHPYD-PREP seeks to address the influences, views and challenges facing our state’s youth population through a broad life course framework. Nebraska’s AHPYD-PREP programming is a comprehensive prevention strategy grounded in the principles of Positive Youth Development (PYD) that provides youth opportunities to develop critical thinking skills about goal setting, values, communication skills, birth control, STD/STI’s, and healthy relationships and behaviors in the context of their lives.

AHPYD-PREP sites will be dispersed throughout the state. The program will target areas where teen birth and STD/STI rates are high, where Concentrated Disadvantage scores are high, and where disparities in teen birth rates and/or STD/STI rates are documented. Special population target groups are Vulnerable and Disconnected Youth, which include youth at risk of homelessness, youth in foster care and youth at risk for commercial or sexual exploitation (human trafficking).

The selected evidence-based intervention is the Teen Outreach Program® (TOP®). TOP® can easily be replicated in urban or rural communities and adapted to fit cultural needs without compromising fidelity to the model. The required minimum three adult preparation subjects (APS) are embedded within the TOP® curriculum – Healthy Relationships, Life Skills, and Adolescent Development. An additional APS, Education and Career Success is also present in the TOP® lessons.

Nebraska’s AHPYD-PREP initiative will be carried out through sub-awards made to qualified recipients by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health, Lifespan Health Services Unit, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health group. Program oversight will be the responsibility of the state’s Adolescent Health Program Manager, Michaela Meismer who will serve as AHPYD-PREP Project Director and identified contact between DHHS and the federal program office in the Administration for Children Youth and Families. The AHPYD-PREP Project Director is responsible for monitoring all sub-awardee TOP® sites via annual site visits required by the TOP® program. Additionally, quarterly attendance, narrative, and financial reporting allow for regular sub-awardee monitoring.