



## Title V Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Grants Fact Sheet

### What is Title V?

“Title V” is another name for the “Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant,” which was enacted in 1935 as part of the Social Security Act. Using Title V funding, states are permitted to provide a wide range of services to children and families, including Sexual Risk Avoidance (Abstinence) education (SRAE).<sup>1</sup> Title V Grants for Sexual Risk Avoidance funding are provided by the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).<sup>2</sup> Under the MCHS block grant program, states are required to match, with non-federal monies, \$3 for every \$4 of federal money received.<sup>3</sup>

### Types of Title V SRAE Grants

FYSB offers two categories of Title V SRAE grants. The **first category** of grant is offered to states under the “block grant” format, discussed above. In FY17, the Title V block grant program funded 59 U.S. States and jurisdictions. Many states have declined to accept Title V block grant funding.<sup>4</sup> For FY18, the following states declined funding: Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wyoming. Also, the District of Columbia was not listed as receiving funding.<sup>5</sup> States receiving this grant often sub-contract or offer sub-grants to organizations within their state to administer the grants and provide the services funded by the grant. The **second category** of Title V SRAE grant is called “Competitive SRAE Program Grants” (Competitive SRAE). In FY18, FYSB allowed organizations and entities in states/territories that had not applied for a State SRAE grant to apply for individual funding under the Competitive SRAE Program, awarding \$4,762,870 million to 18 grantees.<sup>6</sup>

### What organizations are eligible to apply for Title V funding?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.amchp.org/AboutTitleV/Documents/UnderstandingTitleV.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fysb/fysb\\_srae\\_gd\\_factsheet\\_020819b.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fysb/fysb_srae_gd_factsheet_020819b.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/maternal-child-health-initiatives/title-v-maternal-and-child-health-services-block-grant-program>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/title-v-state-sexual-risk-avoidance-education>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/title-v-state-sexual-risk-avoidance-education>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fysb/fysb\\_appp\\_factsheet\\_020819.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fysb/fysb_appp_factsheet_020819.pdf)

In its simplest form, “[e]ligible applicants are limited to local organizations and entities... with the capacity to develop and implement Title V...SRAE projects.”<sup>7</sup> Both pro-life and pro-abortion organizations have been recipients of Title V SRAE funding, either directly or through sub-contracts/sub-grants, as have churches and religious ministries.<sup>8</sup> Unlike Title X, Title V SRAE does not require a grantee to prescribe or refer for contraception.<sup>9</sup> Where an organization chooses to provide information on contraception, it must, “ensure that students understand that contraception offers physical risk reduction, but not risk elimination; and the education cannot include demonstrations, simulations, or distribution of contraceptive devices.”<sup>10</sup>

### **What are the restrictions on presenting the Gospel?**

Faith-based organizations are eligible to apply for Title V funding.<sup>11</sup> However, many faith-based organizations are concerned that accepting government funding may impact their ability to share the Gospel or conduct other religious activity. The federal government offers clarification. “Charitable Choice” laws protect the rights of faith-based organizations to receive government funding, while placing restrictions on how federal grant monies can be used by faith-based groups.<sup>12</sup> Faith-based organizations receiving federal funds may engage in **worship, instruction, or proselytization**, *but only where* these three activities are provided separately in **time or location** from any programs or services supported by a grant.<sup>13</sup> (emphasis added).

Many Pregnancy Help Centers (PHCs) have found ways to effectively achieve this separation. In practice, it may look like the following:

- On the client-intake form, the PHC asks the client whether she/he would like spiritual counseling and/or prayer.
- A center volunteer or staff member performs the government-funded service (Parenting Education, Pregnancy Options Counseling, STI testing, Natural Family Planning Education, etc.).
- At the conclusion of the funded service, the client is invited to a separate location at a different time to receive spiritual counseling. The separate location may be a church, a special room within the PHC complex/building, or even a coffee shop or restaurant.
- The center is funded only for the secular service provided.

If a center is receiving funding for Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) Education and presenting before a school group, youth group, or large audience, the process is simpler. It would look like this:

- A speaker gives an SRA presentation.

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<sup>7</sup> [https://ami.grantsolutions.gov/files/HHS-2018-ACF-ACYF-TS-1384\\_0.pdf](https://ami.grantsolutions.gov/files/HHS-2018-ACF-ACYF-TS-1384_0.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/general-departmental-sexual-risk-avoidance-education-srae-grantees-fy2018>; and <https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/adolescent/mhti/htibth.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> [https://ami.grantsolutions.gov/files/HHS-2018-ACF-ACYF-TS-1384\\_0.pdf](https://ami.grantsolutions.gov/files/HHS-2018-ACF-ACYF-TS-1384_0.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> “Charitable Choice: The Facts.” The White House: President George W. Bush. Available at: <https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/government/fbc/guidance/charitable.html> (Accessed: 11 Dec. 2018).

<sup>13</sup> 34A CFR §75.52(c)(1); <https://www.hhs.gov/answers/grants-and-contracts/what-are-the-rules-on-funding-religious-activity-with-federal-money/index.html>

- At the conclusion of the presentation, the speaker may invite attendees to either attend another event where the Gospel will be presented, or to individually come to the center if they want spiritual counseling
- The center is funded for the SRA presentation only.

An example would be after presenting to a public school class or assembly, inviting students to attend a pizza party at XYZ church at XYZ date and time. The Gospel may then be presented at the second event without violating the Charitable Choice or other laws.

### **What other requirements are placed on entities that receive Title V funding?**

Requirements for Title V SRAE grantees are detailed in the announcement calling for applications, known as a “Funding Opportunity Announcement” (FOA). For Title V SRAE grants, grantees are typically required to use an “evidence-based” curriculum that is medically accurate. Grantees may be required to meet deadlines for implementation of projects and to attend staff training. Requirements and instructions for applications for the next grant cycle will be issued by FYSB upon release of the next FOA for Title V.

### **Where can a prospective applicant go for more information?**

FYSB offers information on its Title V grant program on its website at:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/title-v-state-sexual-risk-avoidance-education-grant-program> (for the Title V SRAE State block grant program). Or at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/title-v-competitive-sexual-risk-avoidance-education-grant-program> (for the Competitive Title V SRAE grant program).