

Abstract

Friday Night Live aims to provide a safe and healthy alternative for youth when substance abuse and mental health issues are most prevalent. The program will be offered in collaboration with local schools, community organizations, and law enforcement to provide a comprehensive approach to reducing substance abuse and promoting mental health among California's youth.

The program will consist of various activities including recreational sports, music, arts and cultural activities, as well as educational workshops on substance abuse prevention and mental health. The program will also provide youth with access to counseling and support services.

The grant application requests funding to support the costs of program activities, including staff salaries, equipment and supplies, and transportation. The grant will also support efforts to engage and mobilize community members, including parents, educators, and law enforcement, to participate in the program and help promote its mission.

The California Friday Night Live Youth Program is an innovative approach that addresses the complex issue of youth substance abuse and mental health by providing youth with healthy alternatives and involving the community in the program. The grant application aims to reduce substance abuse and promote mental health among California's youth, and to improve the overall well-being of the community.

Target Population and Community Need Narrative

The target population for the YOR California project is youth and young adults who are misusing opioids and stimulants. This population includes individuals between the ages of 12 and 25 who are at risk of or currently experiencing substance abuse and related negative consequences such as addiction, overdose, and criminal involvement. The population also includes those who are disproportionately affected by the opioid and stimulant epidemic, such as those from low-income and marginalized communities.

One subpopulation that the YOR California project will serve is youth and young adults who are from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. According to data from the California Department of Public Health, Black and Latinx youth are disproportionately affected by opioid and stimulant misuse. For example, in 2019, the opioid overdose death rate among Black youth was nearly 2 times higher than the rate among White youth. Additionally, Latinx youth have a higher rate of stimulant misuse than their non-Latinx peers.

Another subpopulation that the program will serve is youth and young adults who are experiencing poverty and social economic disadvantage. These young people are more likely to be exposed to trauma, have limited access to healthcare, and lack access to safe and stable housing, which can increase the risk of substance abuse. Additionally,

data shows that young people in poverty are more likely to be involved in the criminal justice system, which can further exacerbate their substance abuse problems.

Language and cultural considerations are also important when working with the target population. The YOR California project will serve youth and young adults who speak languages other than English as their primary language. According to the California Health Interview Survey, in Mendocino county, around 20% of the population speaks Spanish and around 3% speaks other languages than English. Therefore, the program will provide services in multiple languages to ensure that all youth can access and benefit from the program.

The YOR California project will also take into account the cultural considerations of the target population. This includes understanding and respecting the cultural beliefs, values, and practices that may influence their substance abuse behaviors and treatment preferences. For example, some youth may prefer traditional healing practices or may have cultural beliefs that affect their attitudes towards seeking help.

In terms of community assets, Mendocino County has a strong network of community-based organizations that provide services to youth and families. These organizations offer a range of services, including youth development programs, counseling, and substance abuse treatment. However, there are also service gaps that need to be addressed, such as limited access to mental health services, lack of culturally appropriate services, and limited access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder.

In conclusion, the target population for the YOR California project is youth and young adults who are misusing opioids and stimulants. This population includes individuals between the ages of 12 and 25 who are at risk of or currently experiencing substance abuse and related negative consequences. The program will serve subpopulations that are disproportionately affected by the opioid and stimulant epidemic, such as those from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, experiencing poverty and social economic disadvantage, speaking languages other than English and having cultural considerations. The program will take into account the community assets and service gaps that affects the target population.

Program Design and Services Narrative

- a. The lasting impact that YOR California will make through this project is to reduce the negative consequences of opioid and stimulant misuse among youth and young adults in Mendocino County. The program's goal is to create a safe and positive environment for youth with Friday Night Live, which will ultimately reduce youth involvement in crime and substance abuse.

To achieve this goal, the program will have several measurable objectives that will be tracked and evaluated over time.

1. Increase the number of youth and Young Adults participating in Friday Night Live activities: This objective will be measured by tracking the number of youth and young adults who attend Friday Night Live events and participate in activities such as music, sports, and arts.
2. Reduce the number of youth and young adults who engage in substance abuse: This objective will be measured by tracking the number of youth and young adults who report using opioids and stimulants before and after participating in the Friday Night Live program.
3. Increase the number of youth and young adults who receive substance abuse treatment: This objective will be measured by tracking the number of youth and young adults who receive substance abuse treatment services, such as counseling or medication-assisted treatment, as a result of participating in the Friday Night Live program.
4. Improve the cultural competence of volunteers and employees: This objective will be measured by conducting pre and post-training assessments to evaluate the cultural competence of volunteers and employees, and tracking the number of volunteers and employees who receive cultural competence training.
5. Increase community engagement and support: This objective will be measured by tracking the number of community members who attend Friday Night Live events and the level of support and engagement from community-based organizations and local government agencies.

By achieving these objectives, YOR California will have a lasting impact on reducing the negative consequences of opioid and stimulant misuse among youth and young adults in Mendocino County and creating a safer and more positive environment for young people with Friday Night Live.

- b. Expanding access to services for underserved youth and young adults misusing opioids and stimulants is a critical step in addressing the opioid epidemic in our community. Our program will focus on reaching and engaging these youth and young adults through a variety of settings and services, designed to meet their unique needs and provide them with the support and resources they need to overcome their substance misuse.

One key element of our program will be the use of Friday Night Live Youth Program drop-in centers. These centers will provide a safe and welcoming environment for youth and young adults to come and receive support, services, and resources. The centers will be staffed by trained professionals who will be able to provide counseling, case management, and other services to help youth and young adults overcome their substance misuse. Additionally, the centers will also provide resources such as education and job training opportunities, as well as recreational activities and programs to help youth and young adults develop new interests and skills.

Another important aspect of our program will be school visits and outreach events. We will work closely with local schools and community organizations to

provide education and prevention programs for youth and young adults. These programs will focus on helping youth and young adults understand the dangers of opioid and stimulant misuse, as well as providing them with the skills and resources they need to make healthier choices. We will also attend local events such as fairs, festivals, and other community gatherings, to reach out to youth and young adults in a more informal setting and provide them with information and resources.

In order to ensure that our program is culturally responsive for the target population of youth and young adults, we will include youth with lived experience in program planning and implementation. These youth will provide valuable insight and feedback on the program, and help to ensure that the services we provide are tailored to the specific needs and cultural backgrounds of the youth and young adults we serve. Additionally, we will also work closely with local community organizations and leaders to ensure that our program is culturally responsive and inclusive for all youth and young adults.

Overall, our program will use a variety of settings and services to reach and serve youth and young adults misusing opioids and stimulants. By providing a safe and welcoming environment, offering a range of services and resources, and working closely with youth with lived experience and community organizations, we will be able to provide the support and resources that youth and young adults need to overcome their substance misuse and build healthier, more fulfilling lives.

Section 4: Management Plan and Sustainability

1. Organizational Structure and Staffing Narrative (500 words)

a. Staffing

We will recruit and hire staff through a comprehensive and thorough process that includes posting job openings on relevant job boards, reaching out to local colleges and universities for potential candidates, and working with local community organizations to reach a diverse pool of applicants. Our recruitment and hiring process will focus on finding candidates who have experience working with youth and young adults, a passion for addressing the opioid epidemic, and a commitment to cultural responsiveness and inclusivity. Additionally, all candidates will undergo thorough background checks and reference checks to ensure the safety and well-being of the youth and young adults we serve.

c. Policy Change

Yes, our organizational leadership has a strong commitment to providing specialized outreach and programming to meet the needs of youth and young adults misusing opioids and stimulants. This commitment is reflected in our mission statement, which specifically focuses on addressing the opioid epidemic and providing support and resources to youth and young adults who are struggling with substance misuse. Our

leadership team has a deep understanding of the complex and multifaceted nature of the opioid epidemic and the importance of providing specialized and tailored services to meet the unique needs of youth and young adults. They are committed to working closely with community organizations, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders to develop and implement effective and innovative programs and services to help youth and young adults overcome their substance misuse and build healthier, more fulfilling lives. Our leadership team also understands the importance of involving youth with lived experience in program planning and implementation, to ensure that the services we provide are culturally responsive and inclusive for all youth and young adults. Through this commitment, we are able to provide the specialized outreach and programming that is needed to effectively address the opioid epidemic and support youth and young adults in our community.

2. Quality Assurance, Measurement, and Compliance Narrative

- a. Mendocino County has a strong track record of meeting YOR California, state, and federal financial, data, and compliance requirements. Our staff have experience in budgeting, financial management, and grant reporting, and have successfully managed multiple grants and contracts in the past. We have a dedicated team in charge of ensuring that all financial, data, and compliance requirements are met in a timely and accurate manner. We have implemented robust systems for tracking expenses, revenues and maintain accurate financial records, and regularly communicate with funders and stakeholders to ensure compliance with all regulations. We have also established a compliance program that includes regular internal audits and reviews, and we work closely with our external auditors to ensure that all financial statements are accurate and in compliance with all regulations. Additionally, we have a dedicated team responsible for data collection, management, and analysis, ensuring that all data is collected, stored, and reported in a secure and compliant manner.

3. Financial Management and Sustainability

- a. The lead agency will monitor and ensure that YOR California funds are only used for treatment and recovery services when no other funding exists through a combination of financial tracking, program monitoring, and external audits. We will establish a clear budget outlining specific expenditures for the YOR California funds and set up a system for tracking and reporting expenses. The lead agency will also conduct regular program monitoring to ensure that the services provided align with the guidelines set out by the YOR California and that the funds are being used to fill gaps in services where no other funding exists. External audits will also be conducted on a regular basis to ensure that the YOR California funds are being used in compliance with the guidelines and protocols set out by the lead agency. Any discrepancies or issues identified during these audits will be addressed immediately, and all corrective actions will be taken to ensure that YOR California funds are being used in accordance with the guidelines and protocols outlined.

- b. The lead agency will access and leverage resources through a variety of means, including Medi-Cal and health insurance, in-kind services, and delivery through collaborations and referrals. We will work closely with health insurance providers, Medi-Cal, and other government organizations to ensure that our clients have access to the services and resources they need to overcome their substance misuse. We will also work closely with community organizations, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders to build relationships and establish partnerships to provide in-kind services and resources.

We will also use Medi-Cal and health insurance to pay for treatment services for our clients. This will help to ensure that our clients have access to the services they need to overcome their substance misuse, even if they do not have the financial means to pay for them. Additionally, we will work closely with Medi-Cal and health insurance providers to ensure that our clients are able to access the services they need in a timely and efficient manner.

In addition, we will also use in-kind services and resources to support our clients. This may include donations of clothing, food, and other essentials, as well as volunteer services, such as mentoring and tutoring. These in-kind services and resources will help to support our clients and provide them with the tools and resources they need to overcome their substance misuse.

Finally, we will also use collaborations and referrals to access and leverage resources. By working closely with community organizations, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders, we will be able to refer clients to services and resources that they may not be able to access through our program. This will help to ensure that our clients have access to the full range of services and resources they need to overcome their substance misuse, and will help to build a strong and supportive network of resources for our clients.

Overall, the lead agency will use a variety of strategies to access and leverage resources, including Medi-Cal and health insurance, in-kind services, and delivery through collaborations and referrals. These strategies will help to ensure that our clients have access to the services and resources they need to overcome their substance misuse, even if they do not have the financial means to pay for them. Additionally, these strategies will help to build a strong and supportive network of resources for our clients, which will support their recovery and long-term success.