

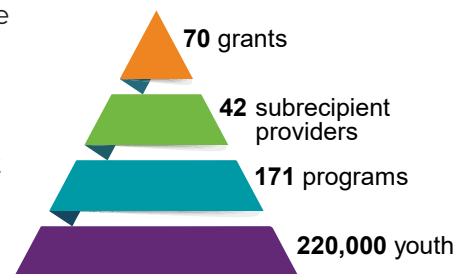
The Title V Competitive and General Departmental Grantees' Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program Plans

For nearly a decade, federal policymaking related to adolescent pregnancy prevention has focused on optimal health outcomes and sexual risk avoidance.¹ Grant programs have increasingly emphasized the social, psychological, and biological factors that can eliminate risk and encourage healthy behaviors. In support of this emerging approach, Congress authorized a discretionary grant program in 2016—the General Departmental Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) program. Then, in 2018, Congress authorized and funded the Title V State and Competitive Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) programs. If a state or territory does not apply for the Title V State SRAE program, the funding allocated to that state or territory is made available to direct service providers or organizations in the state or territory through an open competitive application process.

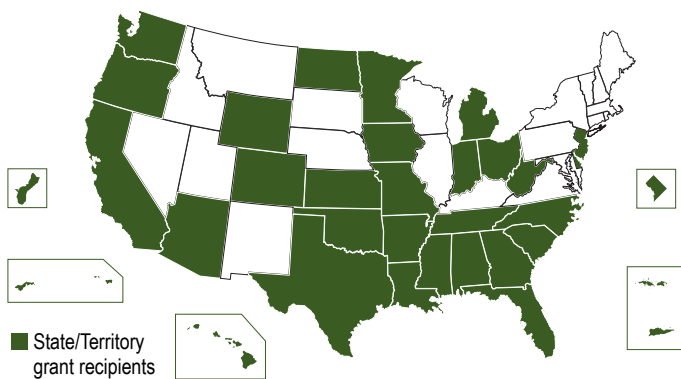
a summer 2020 online survey of grantees funded that time.² For the remainder of the brief, entities awarded grants through both programs will be collectively referred to as discretionary grantees, a term used by the Family and Youth Services Bureau.

Discretionary grantees plan to serve a large number of youth with the grantee organization mostly operating as the primary program provider

Altogether, 70 discretionary grantees are implementing 171 programs in more than 2,000 sites. Collectively, these grantees plan to serve nearly 220,000 youth over their project periods, with an average of 110 youth per site.



Discretionary SRAE Grant Recipients



This brief describes the implementation plans of the two grant programs more often awarded to direct service providers—the Title V Competitive SRAE program and the General Departmental program. The brief draws upon data collected in

Most discretionary grantees directly provide services to youth instead of relying on subrecipient providers. Fifty-four grantees serve as the only program provider for their grant (77 percent). A smaller proportion of discretionary grantees additionally rely on subrecipient providers (14 percent), and an even smaller proportion exclusively rely on subrecipient providers to implement their SRAE programs (9 percent). When working with subrecipient providers, grantees typically award funds to schools and community-based organizations; the 16 grantees working with subrecipient providers are collectively working with 42 providers (2 or 3 subrecipient providers per grantee, on average).

Discretionary grantees take an active role in program decision-making, even when funding subrecipient providers



Discretionary grantees were the primary decision-makers when designing their SRAE programs, especially with respect to the curricula offered to youth. Regardless of whether they are working with subrecipient providers,

most grantees selected the primary curricula for their SRAE program (93 percent). In a few cases, the grantee selected the primary curricula jointly with the subrecipient providers (4 percent) or allowed the subrecipient providers to select the curriculum (3 percent).

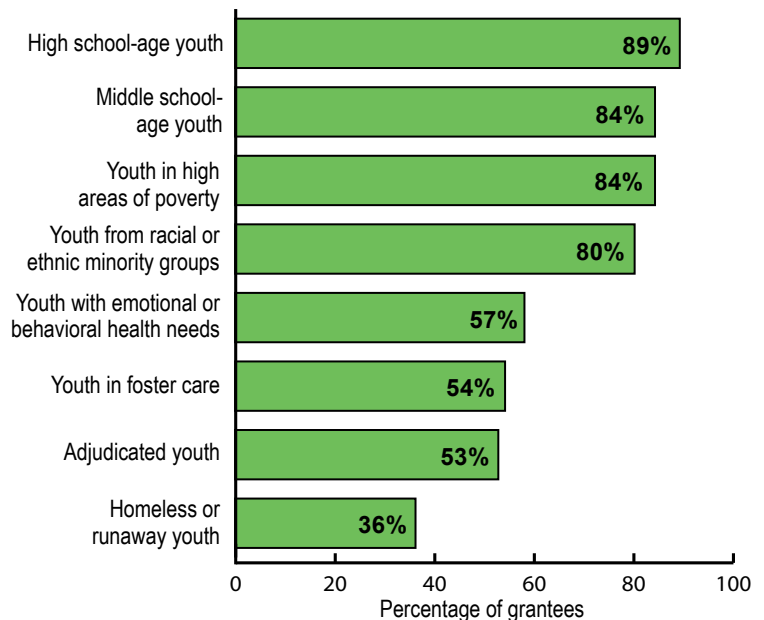
The grantees most often made other decisions about program implementation, but sometimes subrecipient providers made these decisions. Among grantees that also act as the sole program provider, almost all determined which populations to serve, the type of implementation settings and specific sites for program implementation, and whether the program would include any supplemental content. When grantees did not make these decisions alone, they consulted with community stakeholders (6 grantees, 11 percent).

Among the 16 discretionary grantees that also work with subrecipient providers, a small number gave these subrecipient providers decision-making power, mainly about implementation settings (6 grantees, 38 percent) and specific sites for implementation (7 grantees, 44 percent); one-quarter of these grantees working with subrecipient providers also allowed the subrecipient providers to decide which population to serve (4 grantees, 25 percent). Five grantees made all decisions for subrecipient providers.

Discretionary grantees plan to serve school-age youth considered more at-risk for early sexual initiation

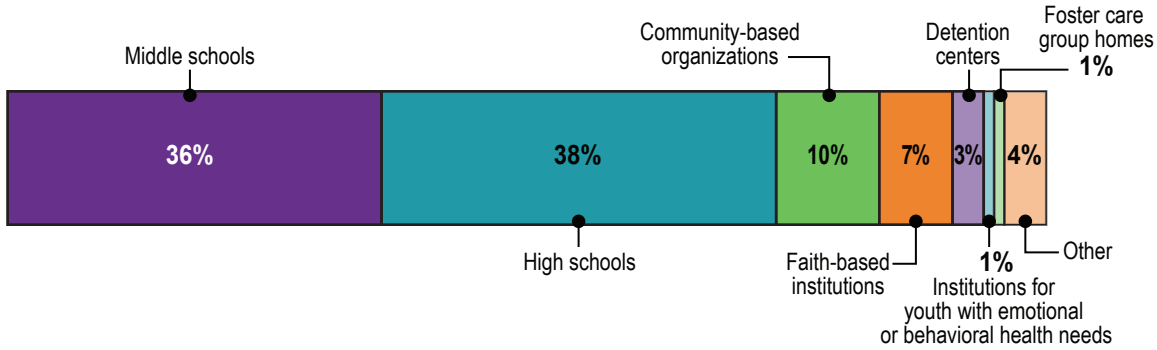
Discretionary grantees plan to serve youth at higher risk of early sexual initiation. More than 80 percent of discretionary grantees plan to serve high-school-age youth (89 percent); middle-school-age youth (84 percent); youth in areas of high poverty (84 percent); and youth from racial or ethnic minority groups, particularly Black and Hispanic youth (80 percent). In addition, more than half of all discretionary grantees reported that they plan to serve youth with emotional and behavioral health needs (57 percent), youth in foster care (54 percent), and adjudicated youth (53 percent).

Discretionary SRAE Intended Program Recipients



Most discretionary grantee program implementation sites are schools, community-based organizations, and faith-based institutions. About three quarters of all discretionary SRAE implementation sites are high schools and middle schools (38 percent and 36 percent, respectively). Ten percent of sites are community-based organizations and seven percent are faith-based institutions. Other implementation sites include detention centers (3 percent), institutions for youth with emotional or behavioral health needs (1 percent), and foster care group homes (1 percent).

Discretionary SRAE Program Implementation Sites

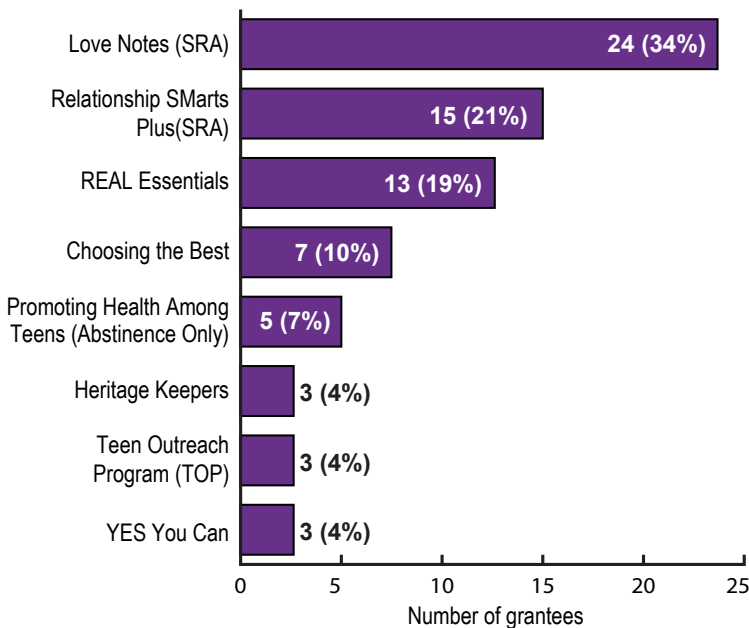


Discretionary grantees select different primary curricula and supplemental content than Title V state grantees

Discretionary grantees are using 35 different curricula for their SRAE programs. The most prevalent curricula among discretionary grantees are Love Notes (SRA) (34 percent), Relationship Smarts Plus (SRA) (21 percent), and REAL Essentials (19 percent). In smaller numbers, discretionary grantees are using Choosing the Best (10 percent), Promoting Health Among Teens (Abstinence Only) (7 percent), Heritage Keepers (4 percent), Teen Outreach Program (4 percent), and YES You Can (4 percent).

Title V state and discretionary grantees are using several of the same curricula; however, two of the three most commonly used curricula in the Title V State SRAE program are not as prevalent among discretionary grantees (36 percent of the Title V state grantees are using Teen Outreach Program, and 31 percent are using Choosing the Best). Furthermore, only 3 percent of discretionary grantees are using Making a Difference, the most commonly used curricula in Title V State SRAE programs (36 percent of Title V state grantees).

Most Common Curricula in Use by Discretionary SRAE Grantees



About half of the discretionary grantees report providing supplemental content (51 percent), mostly by adding newly developed content (64 percent) or adding content from existing curricula (36 percent). A smaller proportion of discretionary grantees than state grantees will provide information on contraception (40 percent of discretionary grantees vs. 56 percent of state grantees).



Discretionary grantees draw upon their prior experience

Most discretionary grantees have previous experience providing education to address key SRAE program topics (80 percent). With that experience, they are using their grant to offer programming previously unavailable to youth (91 percent).

General Departmental SRAE grantees are more experienced than Title V CSRAE grantees. Almost all General Departmental SRAE grantees have experience providing similar programming (96 percent), whereas only about two-thirds of Title V CSRAE grantees have previous experience

Discretionary grantees are also using public awareness campaigns to increase visibility in their communities (56 percent). These campaigns promote greater acceptance of sexual risk avoidance (50 percent) and highlight statistics about the prevalence of youth behaviors related to sexual risk avoidance (37 percent).

(63 percent). Compared with General Departmental grantees, Title V CSRAE grantees report less experience providing education on topics such as education on the benefits of refraining from sex as a teen, the benefits of refraining from sex until marriage, and dating violence prevention for youth.

This brief is a product of the SRAE National Evaluation (SRAENE). SRAENE has three distinct activities. One is the **National Descriptive Study**, which describes the implementation of programs funded by SRAE grants. This brief draws upon data collected in summer 2020 as part of this effort. The second activity is the **Program Components Impact Study**. We will use a systematic and rigorous approach to test and improve the components of programs. The third is **Data and Evaluation Support**. We help grantees build their capacity to use data and research to improve their programs and support grantees conducting their own evaluations.

Suggested citation: Neelan, T., DeLisle D., & Zief, S. (2022). *The Title V Competitive and General Departmental Grantees' Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program Plans* (OPRE Report No. #2022-91). Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Endnotes

¹ "A Better Approach to Teenage Pregnancy Prevention: Sexual Risk Avoidance." The Policy Paper Series, vol. 1, issue 2. Washington, DC: U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Energy and Commerce, July 2012

² Since the 2020 data collection effort, FYSB has awarded SRAE grants to additional organizations. The results presented in this brief may not reflect SRAE programming offered by these additional grantees.