

# Project Prevent

*supported by the Mark and Wendy Elwood Substance Abuse Prevention Fund*

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Mark & Wendy Elwood Substance Abuse Prevention Fund?**

In 2017, Columbus community members Mark and Wendy Elwood generously stepped forward with a commitment to support local substance abuse prevention. They established a fund at Heritage Fund and donated \$500,000 as a \$1:\$1 match for a community fundraising effort. In less than 6 months, the fundraising goal has been surpassed with over \$1M raised to support substance abuse prevention in Bartholomew County.

The Mark and Wendy Elwood Substance Abuse Prevention Fund will be used to support prevention efforts in multiple ways. In addition to noncompetitive Project Prevent grants, the fund will allow local school corporations to purchase prevention curriculum and will support community-wide prevention marketing campaigns.

### **Is there a deadline for grant applications?**

Project Prevent grant applications are due by the first working day of each month. Applications can be submitted to Heritage Fund via email ([info@heritagefundbc.org](mailto:info@heritagefundbc.org)) or mail (538 Franklin Street Columbus, IN 47201).

### **Can we apply for more than one Project Prevent grant?**

Yes! If you have more than one good idea, please apply for more than one grant.

### **Can we apply for more than \$5,000?**

If you have a high impact idea, we will consider requests greater than \$5,000.

### **Do we have to include all the key ASAP messages?**

No. We ask that organizations reinforce the key messages that fit naturally with their prevention efforts and expect that funded initiatives don't contradict any of the ASAP messages.

### **Can we still apply for other Heritage Fund grants if we are applying for Project Prevent funds?**

Yes! Receiving a Project Prevent grant does not preclude an organization from applying for another grant from Heritage Fund.

## **What are some examples of projects or programs that might be funded through Project Prevent?**

We hope Project Prevent inspires organizations to think creatively about ways to engage the youth of Bartholomew County. Prevention can be more than a “just say no” message. It can be about empowering youth and families, decreasing stigma, and building the assets of young people in our community. Here are a few hypothetical examples of how Project Prevent funding might be used:

Example A: An existing program that pairs vulnerable youth with adult mentors would like to provide mentors with updated information about substance abuse prevention – what questions to ask, what signs to look for, how to build strong rapport with mentees. The organization running the mentoring program decides to apply for a Project Prevent grant to offer a workshop to mentors that includes an outside speaker and supporting materials. Potential Outcomes: Mentors leave the training with tools they can use to address substance abuse with mentees and a better understanding of the signs of substance misuse. Within 1 month of the workshop, all mentors report that they’ve had conversations with mentees about substance abuse.

Example B: With support from school staff, a group of high school students would like to decrease the stigma surrounding substance abuse. They decide to interview local individuals impacted by substance abuse – fellow students, parents, and other community members. The students develop questions, conduct interviews, and create a Facebook page and website to share the stories broadly. They even put the stories on posters to display in public spaces such as the public library and The Commons. A Project Prevent grant helps cover the costs associated with this project. Potential Outcomes: Students facilitating this project feel empowered by the process, the people they meet, and the responsibility they have to share the stories they gathered. They develop strong relationships with the adults supporting their project and build confidence when presenting the stories to various audiences. They appreciate the impact substance abuse has on individuals, families and the community. In addition, the community at-large is more empathetic toward those impacted by substance abuse as a result of reading the stories.

## **Can I talk to someone about my ideas before applying for a grant?**

Of course! We would love to brainstorm with you. Please contact Tracy Souza, Heritage Fund President and CEO, at 812-376-7772 or [tsouza@heritagefundbc.org](mailto:tsouza@heritagefundbc.org).

## **Are senior projects eligible for a grant?**

Yes! Student-led projects are encouraged. The Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation has agreed to serve as a fiscal sponsor for any senior with an approved Project Prevent initiative.

## **How will applications be reviewed and approved?**

Project Prevent is a collaboration between Heritage Fund, ASAP, and Columbus Regional Health Foundation. Because of this unique partnership and the urgent need to promote prevention messages in our community, Project Prevent grant applications will not be routed through Heritage Fund’s competitive grant review process. Instead, Project Prevent grant applications will be reviewed through a

noncompetitive process by a small committee of representatives from each partner organization. This will ensure quick turnaround of award decisions so funding can be put to use as soon as possible.

**Does my Project Prevent program need to be sustainable?**

Project Prevent grants are intended to support activities that may not become part of an organization's standard programming. For example, Project Prevent grants can be one-time events or supplemental components to existing programs. We don't expect organizations to develop new programming that will stretch capacity in the long run.

**Do projects have to be completed by April 2019?**

We hope to have many Project Prevent efforts out in the community as quickly as possible. While April 2019 isn't a firm deadline, we hope organizations will be able to pick projects that can be implemented in this timeframe.

**Will grantees be required to submit a grant report?**

No formal grant report is required, but organizations are asked to send a summary after the completion of their Project Prevent program. The summary should include details about the completed prevention effort and any resulting impact. To assess impact, organizations might consider conducting a before and after survey to make sure participants grasped the key messages, counting the number of participants, or tying the success of the prevention program to other community measures. Summaries can be sent to Heritage Fund via email ([info@heritagefundbc.org](mailto:info@heritagefundbc.org)) or mail (538 Franklin Street Columbus, IN 47201).