

What is the Regional Prevention Partnerships Grant (RPP)?

Counter to its perception as one of the healthiest states in the nation, Vermont has among the highest rates of use in the country for most substances, especially alcohol and cannabis use among young adults ([National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) [NSDUH], 2018). In Vermont, the median age for beginning alcohol and cannabis use among people receiving substance use treatment is as young as 14 (Vermont Treatment Data) These data underscore the need to focus on youth and young adults to address early substance use – a precursor to misuse and substance use disorder.

Youth cannabis use has continued to increase, and above US average alcohol use has not changed significantly over 5 years ([Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#) [YRBS], 2019). In addition to the high and rising rate of cannabis use, there has been an eight-fold increase in youth use of vaping as the primary method for cannabis use (YRBS, 2017, 2019).

While there are no significant differences in substance use by county, there are differences in use and frequency of use among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth and young adults compared to their heterosexual/cisgender (CIS) peers (YRBS, 2017; [VT Young Adult Survey](#) [YAS], 2018; [VT Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey](#) [BRFSS], 2018; [Policy and Communication Evaluation](#) [PACE] Survey, 2019).

The RPP aims to prevent the onset of substance use and reduce the progression to misuse and any associated negative consequences of substance use across the lifespan for VT’s highest need groups (youth, young adults, and LGBT youth and young adults). These high need groups align with those in VT’s 2018 State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan which focus on state-level health equity.

Through RPP, The Department of Health’s [Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs](#) (ADAP) will support 5 Vermont regions in substance use prevention efforts. The 5 community grant regions will develop of logic models, strategic plans, evaluation plans, and work plans, and implement evidence-based or promising practice strategies identified for substance use prevention. The above documents should include strategies for executed agreements with higher education institutions and employers of young adults. The logic model, strategic plan, evaluation plan, and work plan will also reflect work to be completed through August 30, 2021. It is anticipated that there will be funding to continue the project through August 30, 2025 dependent on availability of federal funding and compliance to grant deliverables.



Fig. 1: Funded Regions (5)

What are statewide activities of the grant?

- Provide statewide access to quality substance use prevention training opportunities.
- Coordinate efforts to update substance use policies at Vermont institutions of higher learning.
- Partner with Outright VT to expand youth support services and provide training to substance use prevention professionals and their partners.
- Prevention Consultant training and technical assistance consultations to substance use prevention professionals and their partners.
- Outreach and education to employers of young adults on the importance of substance use and misuse prevention as a component of workplace wellness programs.

What are activities of the community-based grants?

- Complete a SPF informed process to develop a logic model, strategic plan, and work plan to address alcohol and marijuana use and misuse.
- Implement evidence-based programs, practices, and policies to reduce and prevent alcohol and marijuana use with fidelity among youth and young adults with a focus on the LGBT subpopulation.
- Plan and provide at least 1 LGBT youth-based social support program (e.g. Friday Night Group) in partnership with Outright VT to build LGBT-specific community prevention services.
- Plan and implement substance use education and wellness programs with at least 1 major employer of young adults in the region.

What is not allowable for funding under RPP?

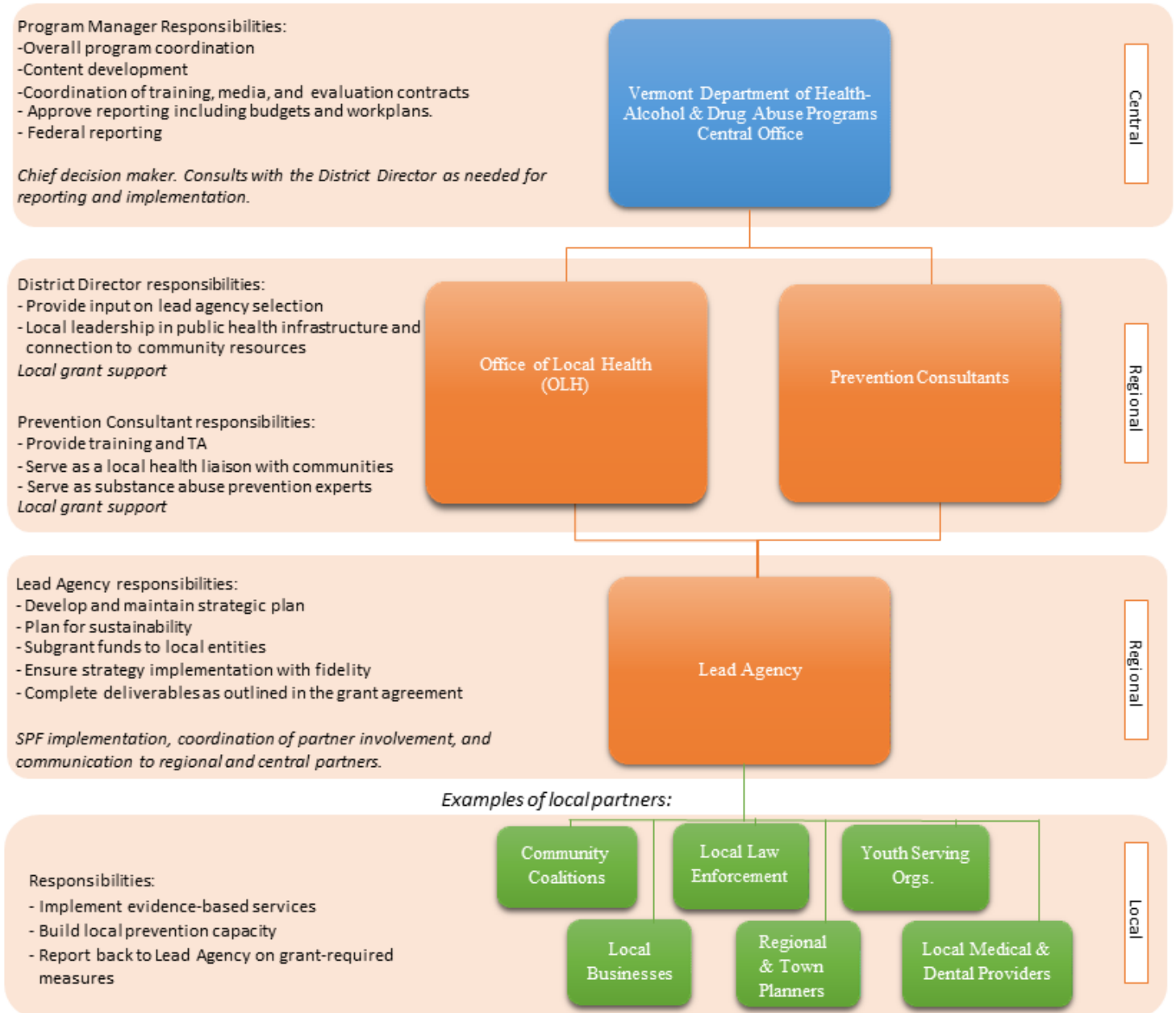
1. No interaction with cannabis or its derivatives, or treatment related to cannabis
2. No swag may be purchased: “promotional items including but not limited to clothing and commemorative items such as pens, mugs/cups, folders, lanyards, conference bags”
3. No purchase of building/construction (renovations deemed necessary and appropriate for the project may be considered)
4. Direct payments to individuals to enter treatment or continue to participate in prevention or treatment services up to a \$30 non-cash incentive may be provided to individuals to participate in required data collection follow up. This amount may be paid for participation in each required follow-up interview
5. Refreshment threshold \$3.00/person/event

How do I acknowledge a project was funded with this grant?

In advertising for events or distributing information, an acknowledgement of the activity’s funding is appropriate. Please use the format provided here:

[Name of your project/event] is funded by [your organization] through the Vermont Department of Health’s SPF-PFS 2020 SAMHSA Award.

Community Grant Organizational Plan



v. 9.2.2020

How do I submit reports? What if I need an extension?

The submitted document must be labeled according to the chart in your grant agreement and include the grant number or the State may reject the report without review. Each report must be submitted separately. Subrecipient may request a change or extension to a due date by submitting a written request to the State at least three business days before the due date. The request must include the report name, grant number, proposed new due date and reason for the request. If the report due date falls on a State-recognized holiday or weekend, the report will be due no later than the following business day and a waiver request is not required. Holidays recognized by the State of Vermont can be found at <https://humanresources.vermont.gov/benefits-wellness/holiday-schedule>.

v. 10/6/20

Community Grant Deliverables Checklist and Resources

The RPP Resources for Grant Implementation includes links to tools to understanding the SPF, data sources, strategic planning, and access to trainings and toolkits to build prevention readiness and capacity.

The deliverables checklist is designed to make the annual deliverables of the RPP projects clear and time-oriented for easy reference.

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/alcohol-drug-abuse/grantees-contractors/reporting-forms-and-guidance-documents>