

CASASTART

Students age 8-13 years, at-risk for substance abuse and delinquency



- *Community partnership*
- *Intensive case management*
- *Comprehensive services*

Results



When compared to a randomly assigned control group one year after participation, children in the program showed:

- *Less likelihood of using gateway and stronger drugs*
- *More likelihood of promotion to next grade*
- *Lower levels of violent offences*
- *Less likelihood of peer influence, and*
- *Higher levels of positive peer influence.*

The Program

CASASTART (Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows) was developed and tested by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA). It is a neighborhood-based, school-centered program aimed at preventing substance abuse and delinquency among high-risk youth and reducing drug-related crime in their neighborhoods.

A community social service agency acts a leader and works in partnership with the target school and local police department to implement the program. An intensive case management approach is used to deliver eight core services: (1) social support, (2) family services, (3) education services, (4) after-school and summer activities, (5) mentoring, (6) community policing/enhanced enforcement, (7) juvenile justice intervention, and (8) incentives.

At present, CASASTART operates in 62 sites throughout the country. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, an office of the Department of Justice, has named CASASTART a model program and it has also been endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control as an effective violence prevention program.

Professional Development

CASA offers a package of 12 days of training and technical assistance during the first year of a site's implementation of the program. This includes 8 days of training in case management, service integration, creating safe schools, behavioral-cognitive work with challenging families, mental health assessment of children and adolescents, and youth development theory and frameworks. We also provide two 2-day follow-up visits. The total package is approximately \$36,000 inclusive of travel and materials. Though CASA considers this the minimal amount of support for faithful adaptation of the model, it is flexible, and if an agency budget cannot support this, call CASA to discuss.

In addition to hard copies of the Field Guide being available for \$50.00, it is also available at:

<http://www.casacolumbia.org/absolutenm/templates/article.asp?articled=203zoneid=26>

Costs & Funding Options

Costs: Trainer fee \$1,300/day for initial and follow-up consultation. Travel and lodging is based on distance and local rates. Materials range from \$3.95 per article (optional) to \$50 per field guide (recommended).

Funding Options: Partnership agencies can contact federal Center on Substance Abuse Prevention and NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services for grants and start-up monies. The trainer may also, upon request, assist replicators in fund development strategies for sustaining their work on site.

Learning Standards

Health, Physical Education and Home Economics: 1) have the necessary knowledge and skills to establish and maintain physical fitness, participate in physical activity, and maintain personal health; 2) acquire the knowledge and ability necessary to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment.

Contact

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