

Funding for Abstinence Education in Washington State

In federal fiscal year 2008 Washington State received \$1,563,773 in federal funding for abstinence-only education.

What is this funding?

Part of the 1996 Welfare Reform Law earmarked \$100 million for abstinence-only-until-marriage education. This money is separated into 3 funding streams that include strict guidelines that recipients must adhere to, including an eight-point definition of abstinence-only-until-marriage education.

What is the definition of abstinence-only-until-marriage?

According to Section 510(b) of Title V of the Social Security Act, P.L. 104–193, abstinence education means a program that:

A	has as its exclusive purpose teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;
B	teaches abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage as the expected standard for all school-age children;
C	teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems;
D	teaches that a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in the context of marriage is the expected standard of sexual activity;
E	teaches that sexual activity outside of the context of marriage is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects;
F	teaches that bearing children out-of-wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents, and society;
G	teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increase vulnerability to sexual advances, and
H	teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.

What are the three funding streams?

The three funding streams for the federal abstinence money are:

- AFLA: the Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA)
- Title V (welfare reform)
- SPRANS-CBAE: Special Project of Regional and National Significance – Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS-CBAE).

The recipients of these funding streams must adhere to the definition above, but in different ways. Title V and AFLA recipient programs can not teach anything that is *inconsistent* with any of the eight points but they don't have to explicitly teach ALL of the eight points. In contrast, SPRANS-CBAE programs are required to teach and include ALL eight points listed above.

Who is getting federal money for abstinence education in Washington?

The 2008 Abstinence-only education money grantees are:

Grantee	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant
Clarkston School District (Eastern Border of WA)	\$464,162	<u>SPRANS-CBAE</u> (Implementation Grant)
AWARE Program (Abstinence, Wait-training and relationship education)	\$499,849	<u>SPRANS-CBAE</u>
Teen-Aid	\$599,762	<u>SPRANS-CBAE</u>

In the past, the Washington State Department of Health was required to apply for Title V funding. Their 2008 application was denied because of more stringent regulations placed on the Federal funding.

A recent 2009 law passed in Washington State (SB 5629) removed an old requirement that mandated our Department of Health to apply for Title V funding. The new law says that any state agency applying for funding for sexual health education programming must ensure that those funds are used for medically-accurate and scientifically-based programs. The Department of Health reapplied in 2009 for Title V funding and their proposal was accepted. The funded program will include focus groups to design a public education campaign that complies with both state and federal laws.