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Alexandria Health Department

Project SAFE ALEX — Substance Awareness for Fentanyl Education in Alexandria

Dangers of Fentanyl Activation Grants (2026)

Alexandria Health Department

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Dangers of Fentanyl Activation Grant Application

Dangers of Fentanyl Lessons

Youth across the Commonwealth do not understand the serious harm that fentanyl poses to their health, and teachers lack the resources to keep them informed. In response to this challenge, the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) developed the Dangers of Fentanyl Lessons, which include a one-hour lesson designed for high school students and a 30-minute lesson tailored for middle school students.

These evidence-informed Lessons are designed to educate middle school students and high school students about the evolving dangers of fentanyl. The Lessons are free to download and can be used in any middle school or high school classroom across the Commonwealth. They are available in both English and Spanish.

The Grant Opportunity

To encourage the implementation of the Lesson, VFHY is providing up to thirty-five (35) \$4,000 Activation Grants. Nonprofits, for-profits, schools, school systems, governmental organizations, and charitable organizations operating in Virginia are eligible to apply. This is a competitive process. Organizations that have received funding in the past are eligible to apply again.

Project Name*

Select a name for your project (e.g. Smith County Public School's Dangers of Fentanyl Project).

Project SAFE ALEX — Substance Awareness for Fentanyl Education in Alexandria

Region*

Indicate the VFHY Geographic Region where the Dangers of Fentanyl Lesson will be delivered. A map showing the boundaries of all four regions can be found here. If your work will span multiple regions, select the region in which your primary office is located.

North

Organization*

Select the category that best describes your organization's legal and tax status.

Government Agency (Local / State / Tribal / Federal)

Grant Requirements*

Organizations must agree to the following requirements to be eligible for this grant award:

1. Train at least two staff members in the utilization of the Lesson. Training consists of watching a one-hour video, reviewing the Implementation Guide, and familiarizing oneself with the Lesson.
2. Administer the Lesson and an anonymous 10-question pre and posttest to at least 200 middle school or high school students between January and August 2026. We ask that you review your pre and posttests to better understand how well youth are learning the information in the Lesson, but you do not need to report the results to VFHY.
3. Provide feedback to VFHY on the Lesson via a short feedback survey no later than September 1, 2026.

Enter the name of the Authorized Representative for your organization. By so doing, you certify that the Authorized Representative has reviewed these requirements and agrees to comply with them.

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Number Of Youth*

How many middle or high school aged youth will complete the Dangers of Fentanyl Lesson between January and August 2026?

Please note: This number must be at least 200.

620

Title 1 Schools*

What percentage of these youth will come from Title 1 Schools?

Please note: If the answer is 50%, type "50"

74

Setting*

Briefly describe the setting(s) in which the Lesson will be delivered. We recommend that the Lesson be given to groups of 25 or fewer youth if feasible.

The Alexandria Health Department (AHD), the Opioid Work Group (OWG) and the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) will deliver lessons in health classes at two Title I middle schools and afterschool to court-involved youth; youth experiencing housing instability; pregnant and parenting teens; LGBTQ+ and immigrant youth; and those affected by trauma, substance use, or behavioral health challenges. Lessons will be delivered to groups of 25 or fewer students during school hours and through afterschool programming. This multi-pronged approach will reach diverse audiences, including youth who are most impacted by overdose trends and are at elevated risk for substance use exposure or experimentation.

Access*

Describe how you will obtain access to the students you intend to serve. Have you worked with these students in the past? If you are an outside organization working in a school, do you have an existing MOA with a school granting you access?

AHD, the OWG, and SAPCA regularly partner with Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), reaching over 4,500 middle and high school students through school-based presentations delivered from January 2023 – June 2025. AHD, the OWG, and SAPCA also share prevention and health promotion information to existing youth programs, including a group for pregnant and parenting teens, the Alexandria Youth Ambassadors, the Peer Advocates, students served through afterschool clubs, and programs serving court-involved youth. SAPCA also has longstanding relationships with youth-serving providers, as well as a signed agreement to host programming at recreation centers. These established partnerships provide the access required—no new MOAs are needed.

Lesson Selection*

Which lesson will you implement?

Both Lessons

Localities*

Select up to three cities or counties where the youth who will complete the Dangers of Fentanyl Lesson reside.

If your program serves students from multiple areas, choose the top three localities where most participants reside.

Alexandria

Staff Members*

List the name and title of at least two people who will be trained in the utilization of the Lesson.

Zayda Morales, Health and Community Education Specialist, Alexandria Health Department

Kirstin Sievers, MPH, CHES Opioid Response Coordinator, City of Alexandria's Department of Community and Human Services

Emma Beall, MPH, SAPCA Coordinator, City of Alexandria's Department of Community and Human Services

Need*

Briefly describe how the students you intend to serve, in particular, would benefit from this Lesson.

From 2020–2024, Alexandria recorded 79 opioid-overdose emergency department visits among youth under age 19, with Black and Latino youth disproportionately impacted. While 2% of ACPS 8th, 10th, and 12th graders report current prescription drug misuse, 84% of students perceive prescription drug misuse as a risk to their health (Developmental Assets Survey, 2025). A higher prevalence of adult substance-use related deaths (43% among adults ages 30-55) highlights that some youth may encounter environments where adult substance use is common. Implementing this lesson will provide students with prevention education and practical skills, helping them make informed decisions and reduce their risk of substance use regardless of their environment.

History*

Has your organization ever implemented the Dangers of Fentanyl Lesson?

No, we have never implemented the lesson

Past

If your organization has implemented the Lesson in the past, how many youth have received the lesson?

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded