



# **Youth Engagement: Hosting a Student Leadership Conference**

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# Introduction

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- Single County Authority (SCA)
- 48 staff at the Commission
- Prevention offices in Clarion and Shelocta (AI counties)



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# AICDAC Prevention Team



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**Jaclyn**



**Abby**



**Stephanie**



**Elizabeth**



**Keanna**



**Shelly**



**Lindsay**



**Terra**



**Jenna**

# Objectives

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## 01. Importance

Understand the importance of hosting events for youth population

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## 02. Coordination

Coordinate a youth conference to build leadership

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## 03. Event Evaluation

Evaluate the event to make improvements and recognize success

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## 04. Funding

Describe possible funding sources to host the event

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## 05. Future Planning

Develop new ideas for future events



## Highest 2021 Risk Factors (2021 PAYS)

All grades across the state (% of youth at risk)



Parental Attitudes Favorable to Anti-Social Behavior: 51.5%

**2019: 48.2% 2017: 46.2%**

Low Perceived Risk of Drug Use: 49.7%

**2019: 49.2% 2017: 49.1%**

Low Neighborhood Attachment: 44.2%

**2019: 43.5% 2017: 42.5%**

Low Commitment to School: 56.0%

**2019: 50.2% 2017: 44.7%**

## Highest 2021 Protective Factors (2021 PAYS)

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All grades across the state percentage: Family Domain

Family Attachment: 59.9%

Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement: 59.9%

Rewards for Prosocial Involvement: 56.3%

All values decreased from 2019.

# Student Leadership Conference

**Purpose:** a free event for high school students to learn about topics related to substance use, mental health, peer pressure refusal, and local resources. The one-day event brings awareness to students by fun activities, presentations, and prizes.

- Host two conferences annually in March:
  - Clarion County
  - Armstrong and Indiana counties combined
- Conferences are set up the same
- One day event during school hours
- Free event
  - Students attend at no charge
  - Lunch and snacks are provided for attendees
  - Reimburse school districts for transportation and substitute teacher costs
  - Offer continuing education credits for teachers- Act 48 credits

- All school districts in the three counties are invited to send around 10 high school students to attend
- Drug Free Coalition members are asked to volunteer and attend the event
- Local human service agencies set up info tables for the kids explaining resources
- Several prizes are donated for students to win





# Pre Conference Timeline

## Summer

Determine conference dates and reserve facilities

Select conference theme

Plan for presentations/ speakers, activities

## Fall

Schedule with presenters

Send out “save the date” flyers to school districts

Request for prize donations

Plan lunch menu

## Winter

Official event invitations to school districts and RSVPs are returned

Invite human service agencies to the event

Design and order conference shirts

## February-March

Confirm details with all parties involved

Create agenda, evaluation form, and room set up

Follow up with school districts who haven't RSVP'd

Purchase supplies



# Agenda Items

## Presentations

- Listen Lucy
- “Magic of Hope” -Anthony Grupido
- “Think Fast” gameshow
- “No Big Deal”- Saltworks Theatre
- Topics from local professionals:
  - Video Game & Screen Time Addiction
  - Stress Management
  - Being Mindful

## Break-out Groups

- Family Feud about mental health
- Impairment stations
- Recovery testimonies
- Vaping awareness
- DUI Simulation

## Vendor Exhibit & Prizes

- Tickets to win prizes
- All students receive 5 tickets at registration
- Earn more tickets by interacting at the vendor exhibit
- Donated Prizes:
  - Local attractions & gift baskets
  - Pittsburgh Zoo
  - Altoona Curve
  - Kennywood
  - Erie Seawolves
  - Phipps Conservatory
  - Delgrosso’s Amusement Park









# Post Conference Timeline

## March-April

Send thank you cards to donors

Review completed evaluation forms

Send reminders about invoices for reimbursement

Submit Act 48 credit documents

## Spring

Schedule planning meetings

# Evaluation

- Create conference survey for all attendees to complete
- Each agenda item is evaluated
  - Registration, Presentations, Activities, Vendor Exhibit, Food, Prizes
- Rating scale: Excellent, Above Average, Average, Below Average, Poor
- Test knowledge from conference content
- List favorite section of the conference
- Suggest topics for next year
- Additional comments



**Evaluations are compiled after the conference and assessed by staff**

**Review successes and plan for improvements**

**Evaluations are saved electronically and submitted for Act 48 credits**

# Funding

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Contract with Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs (DDAP)

- Block Grant
- SOR
- General Prevention
- Gambling Grant for specific presentations

Drug Free Communities Grant (Clarion County)

Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) Grant

Local donations





# Every Connection Matters

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## Build partnerships

School districts, human service agencies, drug free coalitions

## Connect with students

Importance of youth engagement

## Offering local resources

Extra support for students and families and how to help someone

## Bringing awareness to vital topics

Supporting healthy behaviors and encouraging positive decisions

## Being a leader

Enhance knowledge in order to help others







**ARMSTRONG  
INDIANA  
CLARION**

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**DRUG AND ALCOHOL  
COMMISSION**

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*Maximizing Resources... Empowering Change*

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