



## **Youth United Through Health Education (YUTHE) Program Proposal**

### **Target Population:**

African American youth and young adults ages 12-24 who reside in San Francisco.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Racial and ethnic disparities are very significant among African American adolescents. In 2009, the rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea among African Americans were more than 7 times that of whites. During 2010 through May, the rates of chlamydia among African Americans under 20 years of age were 6196.6 (170 cases) as compared to 800.4 (27 cases) that of whites.

Fortunately, in 2009 there were some declines in the chlamydia rates among 14 – 17 year olds and a decrease of 21.8% in gonorrhea rates from 2008 to 2009 among all adolescents. Statistics have shown that when the YUTHE Program is fully funded with four (4) staff, the rates of STDs decline in the Bayview Hunters Point area and when funding is cut to minimal staff, the rates increase in the community.

### **Goals of the Program:**

The YUTHE Program's goal is to reduce rates of STDs and their sequelae among African American adolescents living in the Bayview Hunters-Point neighborhood of San Francisco by increasing the utilization of STD preventative services through a peer outreach intervention model.

### **Background of the YUTHE Program:**

In 1997, the San Francisco Department of Public Health – STD Prevention and Control Services established a peer education program, Youth United Through Health Education Program (YUTHE), to address the high rates of STDs among African American adolescents. STD staff collaborated with researchers at a local university to assist in the development and evaluation of the program including developing and standardizing a training manual, recruitment protocol, risk assessment, and evaluation survey.

**Description of Program/Services:** Youth United Through Health Education (YUTHE) program is a community-based, peer-led STD prevention intervention to encourage gonorrhea and chlamydia screening among adolescents residing in high STD morbidity communities.

- **Staffing** – One Program Coordinator and four peer educators who were recruited from the targeted community. Peer educators received 60 hours of standardized training, with ongoing weekly booster training. Peer educators work 20 hours per week and are paid \$15.00/hour with medical/dental benefits.

**Proposal Request:** Currently two of the YUTHE staff's funding ends at the end of October 2010. We are requesting funds to cover the salaries of the two staff for November and December of 2010, so they can continue conducting health education and promotion activities. (See attached budget)

**Activities:** They conduct weekly street and venue-based outreach throughout Bayview Hunters Point (with an average of 5,600 unduplicated contacts with teens per year); conduct single-session STD/HIV prevention workshops/groups throughout the city and drama skits (an average of 70 per year); collection of chlamydia and gonorrhea urine specimens and STD/HIV counseling at events (on occasions); perform brief behavioral risk assessments/surveys for gonorrhea study and deliver STD/HIV prevention messages, and distribute STD/HIV prevention materials, including condoms and lubricants at health fairs, festivals and the annual KMEL "Summer Jam" concerts (approximately 10,000+ condoms & 5,000+ lubricants are distributed per year).

For additional information on the YUTHE Program contact: Alonzo Gallaread, YUTHE Program Coordinator at (415) 355-2016 or Jacqueline McCright, MPH -Sexual Health Promotions Manager at [Jacque.McCright@sfdph.org](mailto:Jacque.McCright@sfdph.org) or (415) 355-2015.