



funding a drug testing program

Office of National Drug Control Policy 2007

Since 2003, the Department of Education has awarded more than \$36.1 million dollars in multi-year grants to over 80 school districts to support random student drug-testing programs in more than 400 schools. The Department of Education offers these competitive grants to develop and implement, or to expand school-based mandatory or voluntary random drug testing programs for students in grades 6 through 12. The grants are supported through the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools National Programs.

What Kind of Drug Testing Programs can Federal Grants Support?

- Drug testing programs funded by the Department of Education must be part of existing comprehensive drug-prevention programs in the schools being served. They must also provide for the referral to treatment or counseling of students identified as drug users. The projects funded by these grants also must be consistent with state and federal laws and requirements regarding student drug testing, and must ensure the confidentiality of testing results.
- Funds awarded must be limited to the following: students who participate in the school's athletic programs; students who are engaged in competitive, extracurricular, school-sponsored activities; students who, along with a parent or guardian, have provided written consent to participate in a random drug testing program.

Where Else Can I Find Funding for a Drug Testing Program?

- **Be Creative:** Many schools have partnered with community anti-drug coalitions, local service or business organizations, or religious or civic organizations to help pay for their random student drug testing programs. Revenue from Parent Teacher Association fund-raising events, in-school vending machines, snack bars, school T-shirts, caps, and other merchandise can also be used to great effect.
- **Asset Forfeiture Funds:** In some states a percentage of funds acquired through asset forfeiture is required to be used for drug prevention programs. Because the primary purpose of student drug testing is to deter drug use, some jurisdictions have used forfeiture funds to support school drug testing programs.
- **Community Foundations:** Tax-exempt, non-profit organizations called community foundations are the fastest growing sector of American philanthropy. Usually found in areas with a population of over 100,000, these foundations are autonomous and privately supported, operating from an endowed permanent asset base that has been created by local residents over a period of years. For more information, visit the Council on Foundations at <http://www.cof.org>, or the Foundation Center at <http://www.FoundationCenter.org>.
- **Local Business:** Many companies have drug-testing programs of their own. Businesses in your community can provide expertise in conducting drug tests and devising strategies for assessment and referral. Local businesses may also provide financial and other kinds of support for your school's drug testing program.
- **Activity Fees:** Some schools add the cost of drug testing to the student activity fees charged to parents, while others allocate a portion of athletic booster-club funds to pay for drug tests.
- **Existing Contracts:** Schools can reduce the cost of drug tests by linking up with city or State agencies that already have contracts with drug testing companies. Small schools, in particular, can make testing more affordable by "piggybacking" on existing contracts.

To learn more about Federal funding visit: **www.RandomStudentDrugTesting.com**

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