



CJH Educational Grant Services, Inc. (CJH) ...celebrates its **24th** year of service! (December 1, 2021 to November 30, 2022)



During its tenure, CJH developed and submitted **23** multi-year federal grants that were awarded to *public school districts, a business, and nonprofits*. Of those, CJH was awarded and administered five (5):

- Compassion Capital Fund Demonstration Program (2002 – 2005)
 - Healthy Marriage Demonstration Program (2006 – 2011)
- Competitive Abstinence Education Grant Program (2012 – 2014)
- Competitive Abstinence Education Grant Program (2015 – 2017)
 - **Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (2018 – 2022)**

This news edition is dedicated to the Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) program ending in 2022.

Program Mission and Curriculum

SRAE is a voluntary teen pregnancy prevention program designed to engage at-risk youth in proven strategies to avoid at-risk behaviors leading to STD, unplanned pregnancy, drug abuse and instead think about their health and future. Over the past 4 years, CJH offered **Choosing The Best** (CTB) curriculum, required by federal mandate to be *age-appropriate, medically-sound, and evidence-based*. Classes were taught by facilitators trained in the CTB Journey and Life series. Formal instruction and interactive activities helped teens practice refusal skills, understand concepts such as 'consent,' learn legal consequences for sharing sexually suggestive images electronically, review steps to reduce poverty in adulthood, develop healthy relationships, and set life goals. Parent permission was required.

- **26** community partners helped recruit adolescents (ages 13-19) – churches, public schools, nonprofits.
- **1,500 NC teens** completed SRAE from an 18-county target area.

College Student and SRAE Participant

Eligible at-risk teens include middle and high schoolers, dropouts, and graduates. Recent 2022 participant, **Jayla Richardson**, a sophomore at NC A&T State University applauded the interactive experience and curriculum content when she attended. She says, "*this program is on the right track to educating students about a life-changing lifestyle that many young people don't know is an option. The content promotes holistic health. Students learn how to protect their physical and mental health.*"



26 Partnering Community Agencies (2018-2022)

Above and Beyond Family Life, Inc. AKA Alpha Iota Sorority, Inc. Blue Springs-Hoke County CDC
 Conetoe Family Life Center, Inc. Divine Faith Baptist Church Eastern Carolina Human Services Agency
 Edwards Grove Baptist Church Free Will Baptist Children's Home Greater Joy Baptist Church
 Joy Community Development Corporation Jubilee Christian Center of Wagram
 Mt. Moriah Community Church Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church
 National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc., NC Triad-Triangle Chapter #38
 NC Community Action Association OIC (Education Service Department) One Harvest Life Center, Inc.
 Queline Consulting Services, Inc. Shackle Free Community Outreach Agency Tau Gamma Delta Sorority
 Tillery Spectrum Connections Together Transforming Lives, Inc. W.E.S.T. Community Center
 Student Support Services, NC A&T State University Weldon City Schools Wilson Housing Authority

Thank you, TEENS!
for your participation in our program.

All participants will receive “wellness packs.” Each contains preventive products and information-- facemasks, hand sanitizer, cosmetics, a summary flyer on CTB curriculum content and *Self-Regulation and Success Sequencing*. The latter suggests sequential steps to **reduce poverty** in adulthood: 1) Finish high school., 2) Get a full-time job once you finish school, and 3) Get married before you have children. The pack also includes a post-card survey to provide feedback for teen assessment of the SRAE program and their experience.

Four-Year Highlights:

- Internal Review Board (IRB) certification for staff
- Parent workshop trainings taught by **Terry S. Alston**, (Weldon City Schools) reached parents across the U.S.
- CJH became ‘zoom proficient’ with the support of **Ronda Pierce, April-Love Williams**, and **Tiffany Sessoms**, as the project moved from in-person classes to virtual learning online due to the COVID-19 crisis.



Grant Notice: The federal *grants.gov website* forecasts the 3-year SRAE initiative to be offered again in **2023** with a funding base up to \$450,000 annually. Application opportunity is open to nonprofits, small businesses, faith and community-based groups, and others.

NC teens, increased suicide risk. Did you know that *North Carolina is fourth in the nation for number of black teens committing suicide, behind Georgia, Texas and Florida?* (Black teens suicide attempts rise; North Carolina 4th in US (2019)). Let’s become more aware of symptoms, signs, and causes. Consider adolescent mental health training for your organization. **Teen First Aid** is a proactive start for adult and teen training. It teaches teens “how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among their friends and peers.” <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/population-focused-modules/teens/>

Special thanks to **Shirley M. Smith** and **Endia B. Hall** for their contribution to our SRAE *mental health awareness* program. Ms. Hall presented information at this year’s SRAE workshop for parents and guardians.

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Program Assessment

From analysis of voluntary teen surveys, Psychologist, **Dr. Travis Knight**, evaluator, concluded, “*Overall, evaluation results suggest directional evidence that the program produced the anticipated outcomes and promoted positive change in attitudes/beliefs, and increased knowledge around abstinence, sex, marriage, and healthy relationships.*”

CHEERS TO CHAMPIONS...

Richard Thrash, Jr., Latesha Staton-Barnes, Christina Davis McCoy, Norma Hedgepeth, April Love-Williams and others served as curriculum facilitators and monitors. Classes were taught primarily by public school teachers, and sessions were monitored to assure fidelity to the curriculum.

SRAE Sustainability Initiative

In our 4th year, participating agencies had an opportunity to apply for funding to sustain their SRAE programs and build capacity to improve services to adolescent and their families and clients. The nine participating groups received training in mental health, IT, and purchased needed supplies.

Much appreciation to:
Gloria Williams-Wilson our Curriculum Specialist and Program Manager and
CJH Board members:
Yvonne Edwards Brenda Redden Sylvia Turner