

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marion County Schools to Receive Support for Substance Use Prevention Programs in the Wake of the Opioid Crisis

\$12 million Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation initiative will provide funding and technical assistance for schools to select and implement evidence-based prevention programs

INDIANAPOLIS (Jan. 16, 2018) — As Indiana continues to be hard hit by the opioid crisis, now a national public health emergency, today the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation unveiled **Prevention Matters**, a \$12 million grant initiative to support Marion County schools over the next three years in an effort to reduce students' substance use.

Through **Prevention Matters**, the Fairbanks Foundation will provide grant funding and technical assistance to public and private K-12 schools in Marion County to help them select and implement prevention programs that have been demonstrated to reduce substance use across a variety of substances, including alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, prescription drugs and others. What's more, these programs are shown to equip students with skills that help improve academic achievement, attendance, and classroom behavior, and reduce bullying and violence.

For example, several studies of one school-based program, LifeSkills Training, find that students who participated in the program were 28 percent less likely to smoke after a six-year follow-up and 66 percent less likely to use marijuana after a three-year follow-up, relative to similar students who did not participate in the program. Long-term impacts have also been shown for illicit drug use, including use of narcotics like heroin and misuse of prescription drugs. In addition, these studies find effects on behaviors beyond substance use—like a 32 percent drop in delinquency and a 26 percent drop in fighting in a three-month follow-up.

According to a recent survey, only 11 percent of Marion County schools report using this type of evidence-based prevention program. Of the schools that do not have evidence-based programs in place, many cited insufficient time during the school day and lack of funding as key barriers to implementation. **Prevention Matters** aims to equip school leaders with the funding and technical assistance they need to identify the programs that will be most effective in their school buildings and develop a plan for implementation.

"Principals, teachers and other educators care deeply about their students, but they have a lot on their plates. They need support finding the programs that best meet their students' needs and putting them to work in the classroom," said Claire Fiddian-Green, president and CEO of the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation. "By tapping into the wealth of existing proven curricula, school leaders can feel confident knowing the programs they select will work when implemented as designed."

Through **Prevention Matters**, the Foundation will award up to \$12 million over the next three years in funding and technical assistance to Marion County schools that meet eligibility criteria. All Marion County public (traditional, charter and innovation network) and accredited private K-12 schools are encouraged to apply for a **Prevention Matters** grant at RMFF.org/PreventionMatters.

Grants will be awarded in two stages:

Planning Grants: Marion County schools can apply for a **Prevention Matters** planning grant to identify and plan for an evidence-based prevention program in their schools. Grants will range from less than \$15,000 to \$40,000. This stage is non-competitive, meaning that all schools that meet eligibility criteria and apply by February 16, 2018, will receive a planning grant in March 2018.

Implementation Grants: Marion County schools can apply for three years of **Prevention Matters** funding to implement their plan for an evidence-based prevention program. This stage is competitive, meaning that grants will be awarded selectively to schools that develop a comprehensive and realistic plan to implement prevention programs, and sustain these programs long-term. Applications are due by May 25, 2018, and grants will be awarded in July 2018.

- MORE -



“Substance use is hurting children, adults, families and communities in Indianapolis and across the state,” said Jim McClelland, Executive Director for Drug Prevention, Treatment, and Enforcement for the State of Indiana. “Schools can play an important role in the fight against substance use by providing evidence-based prevention programs to students. **Prevention Matters** will connect schools to the proven resources they need to help address substance use and put their students on a path for success in school and beyond.”

Prevention Matters is unveiled at a time in which an adult in Indiana is now more likely to die from a drug overdose than a car accident. And tobacco use continues to pose a fatal challenge: 11,000 Hoosiers die each year from a smoking-related illness, and an estimated 151,000 Indiana children who are now under the age of 18 will ultimately die prematurely from smoking. Use of other substances, including marijuana and methamphetamines, is also of concern.

Research shows that substance use often begins in early adolescence and worsens through high school. Among seniors at Central Indiana high schools, 11 percent report smoking cigarettes, 23 percent report using e-cigarettes, 33 percent report drinking alcohol, 20 percent report using marijuana and five percent report misusing prescription drugs in the past 30 days. And while substance use among students peaks in high school, many begin using drugs as early as middle school. In fact, among Central Indiana 8th graders, more than 10 percent report drinking alcohol and five percent using marijuana in the past 30 days.

In addition to the tragic loss of human life, tobacco use and opioid misuse are also taking a financial toll on the state. Annually, tobacco use costs Indiana \$7.6 billion, and the opioid epidemic costs the state an additional \$1.5 billion each year.

“The urgency of the substance use crisis demands tried-and-true solutions that can be brought to scale in all schools across Marion County,” said Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett. “Effective school-based prevention programs deliver powerful – even life-saving – messages to students at a critical time in their development, helping to avoid addiction before it begins. The result is engaged and resilient children, overall safer schools, and a brighter future for our community.”

Prevention Matters is the latest effort led by the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation to fulfill its two primary Health-related goals: to reduce the rate of tobacco use, and to reduce the rate of opioid use disorder in Indianapolis.

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About the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation

The Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation strives to advance the vitality of Indianapolis and the well-being of its people by addressing the city’s most significant challenges and opportunities. The Foundation is focused on three issue-areas: education, tobacco and opioid addiction, and the life-sciences. To advance its work, the Foundation implements a three-pronged approach: strategic grantmaking, evidence-based advocacy, and cross-sector collaborations and convenings. Learn more at RMFF.org.



FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

Twitter

- Schools can play an important role in combatting the #substanceuse crisis. Glad to see @RMFFIndy supporting Marion County schools to help them identify and implement plans for evidence-based prevention in the classroom. [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters) #PreventionMattersIndy
- Evidence-based prevention not only helps students avoid drugs, but can also improve academic achievement, attendance, classroom behavior & social & emotional well-being. Every #MarionCounty school should consider these solutions: [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters) #PreventionMattersIndy
- School-based prevention can be part of the solution to the #substanceuse crisis our city and state. Excited for this new opportunity to set students up for success in school & beyond: [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters) #PreventionMattersIndy

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- Across the nation and in Indiana, a handful of schools are playing an important role in the effort to reduce substance use by delivering evidence-based prevention programs in the classroom. More Marion County schools have an opportunity to lead on this front – through a new, \$12M Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation initiative called Prevention Matters. I hope all Marion County schools take advantage of the chance to access funding and connect with prevention experts to identify and implement substance use prevention programs that work. Learn more and apply now at [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters).
- School-based substance use prevention programs equip students with skills that not only help them avoid drugs but can also help improve their academic achievement, attendance, classroom behavior and social and emotional well-being. That's why I'm excited my school is applying for a Prevention Matters planning grant – an opportunity to identify evidence-based prevention programs and develop a plan for implementing them in the classroom. Join us and learn more at [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters).

FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

Twitter

- How can #Indy fight #substanceuse? Prevention in schools. A new \$12M effort from @RMFFIndy will help #MarionCounty schools identify and implement proven prevention programs. All eligible schools invited to apply! Learn more: [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters) #PreventionMattersIndy
- Prevention is an effective strategy to stop #substanceuse & save lives. All eligible #MarionCounty schools can apply to receive funding & connect with prevention experts to identify a proven prevention program that meets their needs: [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters) #PreventionMattersIndy
- Encouraged to see this important effort to support schools' work to stop IN's #substanceuse crisis. All #MarionCounty schools should take advantage of this opportunity to bring proven prevention programs to their classrooms: [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters) #PreventionMattersIndy

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- Substance use is hurting children, adults, families and communities in Indianapolis and across the state. School-based prevention is an effective long-term strategy to stop substance use and save lives. Through Prevention Matters, the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation will award up to \$12M to Marion County schools to identify and implement proven prevention programs in the classroom. All eligible Marion County schools are invited to apply. Visit [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters) to learn more.
- School-based substance use prevention programs equip students with skills that not only help them avoid drugs but can also help improve their academic achievement, attendance, classroom behavior and social and emotional well-being. Through Prevention Matters, the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation will award up to \$12M to Marion County schools to identify the proven prevention program that best meets the needs of each applicant's students, staff and school environment and develop a plan for sustainable implementation. Learn more about this great opportunity to help students and our city at [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters).



FOR PARENTS

Customize the **highlighted** social media copy below to meet your needs.

Twitter

- Parents want what's best for their children. School-based prevention is an effective long-term strategy to stop substance use & save lives. I hope my **child/ren**'s school & all Marion County schools take advantage of this program. RMFF.org/PreventionMatters #PreventionMattersIndy
- 18% of students have misused a prescription drug by senior year of HS, & nearly 90% of smokers start by age 18. Not my child! **@SCHOOL (tag)** please take advantage of this opportunity to stop substance use before it starts! RMFF.org/PreventionMatters #PreventionMattersIndy

Facebook

- We've all seen the heartbreaking consequences of substance use, and no parent wants their child to go down that and path. School-based prevention programs can equip our kids with skills that help them avoid alcohol and drugs and even improve their performance in school. I'm excited to hear about this new Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation initiative and hope that **@SCHOOL (tag)** and all Marion County schools will take advantage of this opportunity. Our kids – and our city – need programs like these that work! RMFF.org/PreventionMatters
- PARENTS: You can be a part of the solution to end substance use in Indiana. Schools need support to identify and implement evidence-based prevention programs in the classroom. Let your child's school know about Prevention Matters. Indy-based Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation will award up to \$12M to Marion County schools to select prevention programs that work! Share and tag your school & visit RMFF.org/PreventionMatters.



FOR ALL SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

Download the Prevention Matters social media graphics at <http://bit.ly/PreventionMatters>.



Proven prevention programs equip students with skills that not only help them avoid drugs and alcohol but can also help improve their academic achievement, attendance, classroom behavior and social and emotional well-being.



PREVENTION
matters

Proven programs to help schools
address substance use

Visit
RMFF.ORG/PREVENTIONMATTERS
to learn more.



In Indiana, an adult is now more likely to die from a drug overdose than a car accident, and the state's drug overdose rate has increased by more than 500% since 1999.



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11,000 Hoosiers die each year from a smoking-related illness, and 151,000 Indiana children who are now under the age of 18 will ultimately die from smoking.



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FOR ALL SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



By their senior year of high school, 18 percent of students nationwide report having used a prescription drug for a non-medical reason. Nationwide, nearly 90 percent of smokers start by age 18.



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School-based prevention is an effective long-term strategy to stop substance use and save lives.



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