

Recommendations from the EUDL Discretionary Grant Assessment Visit

I. Program Management and Strategic Planning

a. State and Local Coalitions

Recommendations

- Engage the judicial sector, faith community, tribal leaders, military, health care system, and youth with the UDETF in order to build long-term relationships and enhance state and local efforts to leverage resource and opportunities and identify needs.
- Create a process for visioning statewide policy, enforcement, and media advocacy goals around underage drinking that would allow local communities to match their identified needs with the latest research and evidence-based practices
 - Create work groups around policy issues, enforcement operations, and media advocacy to build statewide consensus
 - Establish a research and statistics work group that can present UD specific data to identify statewide goals
- Leverage the existing structures of Health Maine Partnerships and Drug Free Communities coalitions to implement EUDL Strategies
 - Assure that EUDL funds are used exclusively for enforcing the underage drinking laws and not to sustain coalitions or other activities of the coalitions.

b. Strategic Planning

Recommendations

- Create a revised and expanded logic model for EUDL program
 - Have a work group of state and local organizations that collect and house UD specific data do a detailed analysis to inform expansion
- Convene work groups to bring consensus around statewide UD prevention priorities
 - Create work groups around policy issues, enforcement operations, and media advocacy to build statewide consensus
 - Establish a research and statistics work group that can present UD specific data to identify statewide goals
- Provide technical assistance to coalitions in order to identify environmental strategies that address their local community needs
 - Institute a plan *with* coalitions to implement UD environmental strategies in the communities

c. Program Management

Recommendations

- Revise and clearly define specific job functions of the ASPII program manager and the State EUDL Coordinator for post-adoption of the strategic plan
- Define a process to track implementation of strategies to measure progress, quickly identify and address problems, and facilitate evaluation.

d. Resources

Recommendations

- Develop a coordinated statewide EUDL Strategic Plan to allow the required environmental strategies of the local coalitions to enhance and flow from the larger plan. Assurances need to be made that coalitions are using EUDL funds specifically on underage drinking enforcement and not other coalition activities.

e. Data and Records

Deficiency Notes

- There is no central data repository on underage drinking law violations for those under 18
- The Uniform Crime Report system do not allow for separating out different typed of alcohol related liquor law violations (i.e. possession, furnishing). This is the case for both adult and juvenile violations.

Recommendations

- Utilize multiple data sets to conduct strategic planning and evaluation for EUDL
 - Inventory sources of data
 - Engage in collaborative efforts to include information about UD in data collection and management systems in health, law enforcement, education and justice systems in Maine.

f. Communication Program

Recommendations

- Develop a plan for sharing of information and resources specific to enforcing underage drinking laws.
 - Establish a communication channel for local coalitions to communicate with the state task force and other coalitions.

II. Prevention

a. Responsible Alcohol Service

Recommendations

- Assess resources needed for enforcement of liquor laws specific to underage drinking.
 - Use focus groups, individual interviews and surveys to determine law enforcement knowledge and attitudes related to enforcement of underage drinking laws.
- Expand the use of responsible server training
 - Create incentives for licensees to participate in RBS training
 - Encourage liability insurance carriers to offer discounts to clients who complete approved training.

b. Community-based Programs

Recommendations

- Promote the inclusion of underage drinking in the Maine Learning Results
 - Provide schools with accurate information related to the extent, nature and consequences of underage drinking in Maine
 - Utilize law enforcement and criminal justice professionals to educate students about the legal consequences of underage drinking
- Implement Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals (DITEP) for school personnel
 - Identify schools with significant rates of underage drinking reported in surveys and/or as evidenced by students consuming alcohol at or before school or at school events
 - Quality DITEP for Continuing Education Credit for teachers
 - Create additional incentives for completing DITEP
- Sustain and expand the use of evidence-based underage drinking prevention strategies in schools
 - Use evidence-based prevention strategies that address underage drinking and underlying risk and protective factors and develop resilient youth
- Assess parent knowledge and attitude related to underage drinking law enforcement (including conducting a parent survey)
- Sustain and expand college underage drinking enforcement to better coordinate efforts between campus police and state and local law enforcement
- Provide employers with information and resources to address young employees' underage drinking
- Provide employers with “best practices” for limiting young employees access to alcohol and support this through materials, training, and incentives
- Leverage the resources of established community coalitions to implement strategies to enforce underage drinking laws, with careful assurance that EUDL funds are used exclusively for underage drinking.

III. Criminal Juvenile and Justice System

a. Laws

Recommendations

- Develop a white paper detailing how statutory language changes related to underage drinking in Maine could be cost effective and improve the image of Maine as a safe place to work and play. Engage communities in writing and disseminating this white paper to knowledge leaders and opinion makers. This white paper should suggest the following for Maine:
 - To decrease high risk underage drinking by providing criminal penalties for repeat offenses while reserving the civil penalty for first time offenders
 - To provide the use of public nuisance remedies for large underage drinking parties and forfeiture penalties; and
 - To expunge the records on underage alcohol offenses when the offender has reached the age of 21 with no subsequent offenses.

- Identify state and local leaders to serve as champions for enforcing the underage drinking laws
 - Support the champions' appearances and participating in statewide conversations about underage drinking law enforcement to delay use to the age of 21
 - Have these champions focus on underage drinking, not substance abuse
- Maintain and enhance, when possible, legislation that supports the regulation and punishment of those adults who provide alcohol to underage drinkers
 - Obtain and place technology to allow adequate data collection and analysis of the regulatory activities by Maine's EUDL program
- Increase communication and develop active cooperation with the Native American tribes so that they may be included in prevention underage drinking

b. Enforcement

Recommendations

- Establish multi-agency task forces in order to implement enforcement programs thereby leveraging resources
 - Identify communities that are lacking resources or are unable to utilize available resources
 - Establish a working group to identify potential operations and resource sharing
 - Involve key players such as prosecutors and business licensing entities
- Establish an executive alcohol law enforcement training program in conjunction with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. The goal is to expose as many command officers to Maine specific underage drinking law enforcement as possible
- Develop a "Furnishing" or Source investigation training class and make it available to as many officers as possible
 - Develop a training manual and model policy around furnishing and source investigation to be adopted by Maine agencies
 - Fund pilot locations that demonstrate a need for furnishing or source investigation programs for EUDL
- Provide funding for Maine agencies to attend the National EUDL conference and National Liquor Law Enforcement annual meeting to take advantage of networking with professional organizations which have UD specific resources
- Implement a department-to-department mentoring program to assist with incorporating practices of underage drinking law enforcement into regular operations

c. Publicizing High-Visibility Enforcement

Recommendations

- Implement a comprehensive and consistent media campaign plan that will be adopted by any Maine recipient of EUDL money.
 - Require media activities (minimally a media alert) for each operation and require evidence that it was prepared

- Provide training and technical assistance on no and low-cost media options, including social media

d. Prosecution

Recommendations

- Create and support a District Attorneys Committee for the improvement of the prosecution of alcohol enforcement and underage drinking law violations
 - Develop and deliver education for DA's on underage drinking violations
 - Earmark some of the prosecutors' deferral fees to support prosecutorial education

e. Adjudication

Recommendations

- Engage the judiciary to improve the adjudication of underage drinking law violations
 - Meet with the judicial leaders throughout Maine
 - Conduct a focus group with juvenile court judges to obtain their perspectives on the management and adjudication of underage drinking
 - Develop an education module that presents the state of the science of alcohol for judges
 - Develop a Maine underage drinking "brief" for juvenile court judges

f. Programs related to drivers' licensing

Recommendations

- Explore pilot program to have juvenile judges participate in a licensing ceremony in which the judges can provide education on underage alcohol use along with traffic safety issues to new drivers and a parent
 - Determine if there is a restriction in the law that would preclude this practice
 - Partner with BMV and Maine Office of Traffic Safety
 - Research other states that use this practice
- Implement a program by which departments apply for training and/or the purchase of equipment to detect false ID's, thereby limiting access by underage persons to alcoholic beverages
- Implement a process to remove accumulated false ID's from public circulation, develop a process to aid law enforcement and licensed businesses in lawfully disposing of false ID's abandoned at licensed establishments
 - Pilot test a program for disposal of accumulated false ID's
 - Identify a legally acceptable method of disposal of accumulated false ID's

IV. Communication Program

Recommendations

- Establish a coordinated statewide communication plan to enhance the impact of enforcement efforts and policy initiatives as identified in the EUDL strategic plan
 - Develop relationships with media at the state and local level
 - Share resources for UD communication campaigns with local communities on a regular basis
 - Develop a mechanism for coalitions to share UD enforcement communication resources with each other
 - Add training on media advocacy to EUDL trainings
 - Require EUDL funded efforts to utilize media advocacy
 - Identify messages to support UD enforcement efforts based on key times of year
 - Create talking points for law enforcement to use when talking with parents on the dangers associated with underage drinking and fraudulent ID's
- Utilize existing resources to educate sectors of the community such as parents, judicial partners and law enforcement on the dangers associated with youth alcohol use

V. Alcohol Use

Recommendations

- Implement SBIRT in settings which youth receive services
 - Implement SBIRT in all Trauma Centers and hospital emergency departments including use with patients ages 18 to 21
 - Provide SBIRT training for school counselors and other personnel in schools
 - Implement SBIRT in middle and high schools in Maine

a. Criminal Justice System

Recommendations

- The Juvenile Correction Officers should receive training on underage drinking law enforcement
 - Conduct an efficacy review of current JCCO practices and qualifications in dealing with underage drinking law violations

b. Monitoring Underage Drinkers

Recommendations

- *(Repeated from a: Criminal Justice System)* The Juvenile Correction Officers should receive training on underage drinking law enforcement
 - Conduct an efficacy review of current JCCO practices and qualifications in dealing with underage drinking law violations

VI. Program Evaluation and Data

a. Evaluation

Recommendations

- Expand the current logic model to include qualified assessment of the extent and nature of underage drinking and key underlying causes
 - Use survey and archival data to profile underage drinking and identify the statistical and logical relationships between underage drinking and individual, community, family, and school factors
- Establish baseline levels of key outcome measures
 - Develop an inventory of available data appropriate for strategic planning. Establish cooperative agreements with agencies that host data systems so that data can be accessed.
- Design evaluation protocols for all EUDL strategies

b. Data and Records

Recommendations

- Collect detailed participation data for all EUDL strategies and activities
 - Develop an online reporting system specific for all EUDL programs
- Access archival data
 - Establish a data access workgroup that consists of representatives of state and local organizations that collect and house underage drinking related data elements
 - Develop data access cooperative agreements with agencies that maintain databases
- Implement primary data collection
 - Modify/add items to Maine youth surveys

c. Information and Records Systems (including Licensing)

Recommendations

- Develop a statewide citation tracking system
 - Ensure that all police agencies participate in the tracking system
 - Ensure that all civil and criminal violations are included in the tracking system
 - Ensure that specific code sections are cited