

## Virginia Community Service Grant Program

### *Fact Sheet*

- Statutory: Section 4126 of Title IV, Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- Authority: (ESEA), reauthorized in the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB).
- Purpose: To enable states to implement and coordinate programs under which students expelled or suspended from school are required to perform community service.
- Goals: To provide suspended and expelled students with meaningful activities to occupy their time during their absence from regular school; to help them avoid negative behavior; and to teach them the value of service to others and to their communities.
- Funding:
- Total \$970,000 each year for a two-year period.
  - Program will be implemented by the use of contracts rather than by subgrants.
  - Up to 18 contracts at a maximum \$50,000 per year are anticipated. Eligibility to apply for year two funding is contingent upon satisfactory performance in year one.

It is anticipated that funded programs in Virginia will

- involve collaborative partnerships among schools and community agencies and organizations that reflect the perspective that suspensions and expulsions constitute a community issue rather than exclusively a school issue;
- use proven program approaches and practices that have been demonstrated to be effective;
- include academic counseling and parent involvement components in addition to community service;
- provide highly individualized services designed to ensure that the community service is a meaningful experience and achieves intended program goals;
- participate in planned training;
- participate in a cross-site evaluation.

Additional information about this funding opportunity will be posted on two Web sites:

<http://www.soe.vcu.edu/csc> and <http://www.safeanddrugfreeva.org>

The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be posted on these sites by June 6, 2003.

Contact information:

Arlene D. Cundiff, Coordinator  
Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program  
Virginia Department of Education  
P.O. Box 2120  
Richmond, VA 23218-2120  
804-225-2871 (phone)  
804-786-9769 (fax)  
acundiff@mail.vak12ed.edu

Sara Jo Williams, Director  
Center for School-Community Collaboration  
School of Education  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
P. O. Box 842020  
Richmond, VA 23284-2020  
804-828-1482 (phone)  
804-828-1323 (fax)