



Loss of Federal Funding Seriously Jeopardizes Methamphetamine Prevention Efforts in Kansas

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Topeka—The Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project (KMPP) was recently informed that it lost its federal funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The statewide project was funded by SAMHSA in October 2002 in response to the serious methamphetamine problem in Kansas, which ranks fifth in the nation for meth lab seizures and has an increasing number of residents seeking treatment for meth addiction (81% increase from 1997 to 2002).

The Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project provides communities with support, current information, strategies and tools for addressing the methamphetamine problem at the local level. The Project developed cutting edge, effective strategies to address the multi-faceted meth problem. These strategies have been replicated not only in communities across Kansas, but also in over 15 states throughout the country. In a one year time period, nearly 50% of Kansas counties implemented methamphetamine prevention efforts and/or efforts to assist children whose parents are using or manufacturing meth. The Project has provided 213 trainings to nearly 9,000 people throughout Kansas in less than one year.

Efforts to address methamphetamine are at a critical stage. Community members have the capacity and energy to address the problem as a result of the Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project. Even though the Project has only been in existence one year, dramatic results have been realized in communities throughout the state. Without funding for these efforts, Kansas will lose ground in addressing the meth problem, which is already at epidemic proportions. Kansas will have more meth users, more injuries and deaths, and safety and health concerns in communities. It will require significantly more time and funding to address meth if we are not proactive and don't continue current efforts.

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