



GUARD YOUR HEART. GUARD YOUR MIND. GUARD YOUR BODY.

TEEN PREGNANCY AND PREVENTION INITIATIVE

May 5, 2010

Most Americans have been distracted lately by the ongoing Health Care Overhaul. For most, the distraction boils down to one simple question, “How will the change affect me?”. Across the country abstinence educators and youth development agencies have been asking the same question. As for LifeGuard we ask because our current federal funding through the Community Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) grant is **NOT** part of the new budget. For the fiscal year beginning in October 2010, the CBAE funding has been **eliminated** and **replaced** with the federal Teen Pregnancy and Prevention (TPP) initiative sponsored by President Obama for \$110 million. Of the \$110 million, \$75 million is broken down into two main groups or tiers for application designated for funding on only specific curriculums listed which are *primarily contraceptive based education*. A brief description of each is listed below:

http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/oah/prevention/grants/announcements/funding_announcement_04012010.pdf

The biggest concern that we have at LifeGuard Youth Development is the possible request to *compromise* our abstinence only message for the sake of federal funding, **which we refuse to do**. We are exploring all possible options and alternatives at this point including Title V funding through the state of Missouri which we have used before to educate and equip our youth.

Since 2004 LifeGuard Youth Development has *educated over 37,000 students*, 83% of Middle School students who, after taking the LifeGuard classes indicate that they will avoid at risk behaviors including alcohol and drugs. Students also indicate a better understanding of STDs and how they are transmitted, 89% after attending LifeGuard classes. 84% of parents support emphasizing building healthy relationships, and bolstering self-worth and self-control, rather than condom usage skills.

While LifeGuard works hard to impact young people, we recognize that parents are still the number one source of guidance and instruction to teens. The simple truth we believe; youth will behave in the way that they are expected to, or believe that they are expected to. (Self fulfilling)

Our commitment is, and always will be, to equip and empower youth through character education; helping youth guard their heart, guard their mind and guard their body!

If you would like to help in any way please contact us @ 816-836-8336