

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: David Nielsen 916 /449-2273, ext. 204

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dnielsen@cacfs.org

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ADDICTION EDUCATION, PREVENTION, AND TREATMENT ORGANIZATIONS RELEASE ADVISORY ON MARIJUANA TAX REVENUE SPENDING

With Legislative Analyst Office estimates for marijuana taxation revenues topping \$1.4 billion per year in the not so distant future, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), the California Department of Education (CDE), and the Department of Public Health (DPH) will face the daunting task of determining just how to spend the 60% of revenue dedicated to the Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment Fund which will create the nation's largest, integrated program focused on reducing the impact of addiction for young people.

Experts from a wide array of systems and organizations that interact with young people throughout the state have been meeting since Proposition 64 was passed to construct a set of recommendations that will assist policy makers and budget allocators in making good decisions regarding the fund's allocations.

"We decided it was in the best interest of the children, young people, and families of California that we all work collaboratively to develop a set of guiding principles that we could put forward for consideration," said Dave Nielsen, Senior Mental Health Policy Advocate at California Alliance of Child and Family Services. "The result is a well thought out document that we hope will serve as a foundation for decision making for decades to come."

The *Recommendations on the Use of Proposition 64 Adult Use of Marijuana Act Youth Funds* was released on Friday and covers topics including, capacity building, systems integration, workforce and evaluation.

Recommendations are pro-youth and quality centered. "Any youth system of care should be designed from a positive youth development model that is developmentally appropriate, culturally and linguistically competent, takes a trauma-informed and harm reduction approach, and honors youth choice and voice," is one guiding principal of the document. "DHCS, DPH, and CDE should assist in the evaluation of all funded programs on an ongoing basis and provide sufficient technical assistance to local efforts to ensure that measures are uniform across agencies, use a mixture of indicators and outcomes that are appropriate to the setting, specific intervention and age of program participants, demonstrate successes and failures of programs designed to reduce substance use-related negative outcomes or consequences, and collect and report consistent demographic data, including sexual orientation and gender identity," speaks to the stakeholders' desire to ensure equity and integrity to the education and treatment systems created by the funding.

The document is coauthored by the California AfterSchool Network, the California Alliance of Child and Family Services, the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, the California Association for Alcohol/ Drug Educators, the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals, the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies, the California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network, the California School-Based Health Alliance, the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, John Hopkins University Children's Defense Fund, the County Behavioral Health Directors Association, Milpa, the Steinberg Institute, Tarzana Treatment Center, and Youth Forward.

Recommendations on the Use of Proposition 64 Adult Use of Marijuana Act Youth Funds can be viewed and downloaded at: <http://auma6460.com/>.