



Education Development Center, Inc.

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**EDC Announces New Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT) to Prevent and Reduce Substance Abuse across the Nation**

**Newton, MA:** Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) is pleased to announce that it has been selected to operate the new Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT), a national contract awarded by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The contract begins September 1, 2009 for one base year with four option years. SAMHSA is a Federal agency within the United States Department of Health and Human Services. This work enhances and supports CSAP's efforts to prevent and reduce substance abuse and associated public health issues across the lifespan. Certain populations, such as returning veterans and their families, and young adults (ages 18-25) may be targeted to address disparities in their behavioral health.

With regional partners, EDC's Health and Human Development Division will provide training and technical assistance to CSAP grantees to strengthen their capacity to deliver effective prevention programs, policies, and practices. Grantees eligible to receive CAPT services include—States and the communities they serve, Jurisdictions, and Federally-recognized tribal entities supported under SAMHSA's *Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Program*, and grantees included in CSAP's portfolio of *Programs of Regional and National Significance*.

Through CAPT services, CSAP will strive to enhance the skills, knowledge, and expertise of the prevention workforce across the country to support successful implementation of a structured, community-based and state-based approach to substance abuse prevention utilizing a strategic planning process -- SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework.

Building on the decade-long accomplishments of the five previous regional CAPT centers, EDC and its regional partners are creating a new, integrated CAPT system that will offer state-of-the-science customized technical assistance and training. The CAPT contract combines centralized management capacity at EDC to ensure overall program direction, efficiency, and consistency with a decentralized regional network system – i.e., a Regional Expert Team located in each region of the National Prevention Network.

These Regional Expert Teams reflect the diversity of their regions and have the knowledge and ability to reach all segments of the population. The CAPT will leverage and coordinate the strengths, tools and strategies from each region for a more unified and integrated national approach.

“Through the new CAPT system, SAMHSA/CSAP has the resource capacity to advance the President's prevention agenda in improving the behavioral health and well-being of Americans and the communities in which they live,” stated Frances M. Harding, SAMHSA/CSAP Director. “We have research that supports the

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effectiveness of the prevention interventions we implement in the field to prevent and reduce substance abuse and related behavioral health problems. And, we know how to build and work with community and State prevention systems. By strengthening our collective ability to implement the Strategic Prevention Framework, we can enhance and sustain sound prevention practice at the local, State, and national levels,” Director Harding said.

In addition, under the auspices of the CAPT contract, CSAP continues its partnership with the United States Department of Education (ED) to provide additional resources for CAPT assistance to grantees supported under ED’s Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse (GRAA) Program, an initiative to reduce underage drinking.

“We are very proud to have this remarkable opportunity to serve the nation and leverage the substance abuse prevention services we have offered as the Northeast CAPT for more than a decade,” said Cheryl Vince Whitman, EDC Senior Vice President and Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Wayne Harding, Principal Investigator of the new CAPT. “The new system builds on all that has been learned and will continue to serve the regions and their particular audiences and needs. Through greater collaboration in these challenging economic times, we can share and draw on collective resources, and united with our excellent partners, achieve CSAP’s mission to prevent and reduce the toll of substance abuse in an increasingly diverse America,” she said.

EDC and its subcontract partners will serve as a key implementation arm of SAMHSA/CSAP, enabling policy makers and prevention practitioners to apply effective practices across the country. Joining EDC in this new, integrated CAPT system is an impressive roster of consultants and six major partner organizations:

- CRP, Inc.
- Minnesota Institute for Public Health
- Social Science Research and Evaluation
- University of Nevada, Reno
- University of Oklahoma
- Westat

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*EDC is a global nonprofit organization that develops, delivers, and evaluates innovative programs to address some of the world’s most urgent challenges in health, education and economic development. EDC creates and manages more than 300 projects in 35 countries. Visit [www.edc.org](http://www.edc.org). The programmatic home of the CAPT is EDC’s Health and Human Development Division, [www.hhd.org](http://www.hhd.org)*