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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Dec. 6, 2004

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\$245,000 Grant To Foster Suicide Prevention Programs

A total of \$245,000 in new funds for suicide prevention programs has been awarded to community agencies throughout Arizona, Arizona Department of Health Services Director Catherine Eden announced today.

“Even one death by suicide is one too many,” Director Eden said. “This new funding will give Arizona an opportunity to develop new programs and expand existing suicide prevention programs that we know work.”

According to the most recent state ranking by the American Association of Suicidology, Arizona is ranked six highest in the country for suicide rates. More people in the United States die from suicide than homicide every year and approximately 4.45 million Americans have survived the suicide of a friend, family member or loved one.

“This money will increase opportunities to prevent suicide, and raise awareness that help is available,” Eden said.

The money, made possible by an increase in the federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, will go towards professional training for school staff, youth leadership/peer education, and public awareness.

Funding will target Native American youth, aging, and other populations.

Providers are encouraged to collaborate with the Arizona Suicide Prevention Coalition. The Coalition has a new website, www.azspc.org, that provides information and resources on the topic of suicide prevention.

“Most suicidal individuals do not want to die. They just want to end the pain they are experiencing. When suicidal intent or risk is detected early, lives can be saved,” Heather Brown, the Health Department’s Suicide Prevention Coordinator, said.

(more)

SUICIDE

ADD

It is common for people to talk about suicide before they attempt it. This is just one warning sign and should be taken seriously. Other warning signs include:

- Drastic changes in behavior
- Withdrawal from friends and/or social activities
- Changes in eating and/or sleeping habits
- Previous suicide attempts
- Getting rid of valued personal possessions
- Preoccupation with death and dying
- Increased use of alcohol or drugs

If you or someone you know needs help, call 1-800-SUICIDE or the Value Options Crisis Line at 602-222-9444.

Suicide Prevention Programs

Provider	Counties	Target Population
Community Partnership of Southern Arizona	Pima, Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz, Cochise	Aging
Southeastern AZ Behavioral Health Services	Pima, Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz, Cochise	Native American youth
Campeños Sin Fronteras	Yuma, La Paz	Aging
Gila River Health Care Corporation	Gila River Indian Community	Native American youth, elders and community
Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority	Mohave, Coconino, Apache, Navajo, Yavapai	Native American, Aging
Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens	Pinal, Gila	Aging
San Carlos Apache Tribe	Pinal, Gila	Native American
Phoenix Indian Center	Maricopa	Native American
Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development	Maricopa	At risk youth

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