

Advocates For Healthy Choices (AFHC) Club and School Safety Personnel Tobacco Law Enforcement Grant from the Department of Justice Overview of Program



The Los Angeles Unified School District's Beyond the Bell Branch (BTB) is the recipient of the Tobacco Law Enforcement Grant from the Department of Justice. BTB applied for this grant to cultivate student leaders around anti-tobacco advocacy and provide community education. This award is a two-year grant which will end on June 30, 2020, and will be implemented at 63 high school campuses.

Advocates For Healthy Choices (AFHC) Club

The Advocates For Healthy Choices Club is an after-school club that will be comprised of student leaders who will coordinate a campaign to raise awareness amongst their peers on the harmful effects of tobacco products (i.e. e-cigarettes and vaporizers). Its members will receive training in team-building, communication, project management, and public speaking to empower them to become future leaders who will advocate for their communities. The club's membership will consist of 10 students who speak English fluently and 10 Newcomers or ELD 1/ELD 2 students. These students will have the opportunity to develop their English skills and work collaboratively with their peers. The club will be overseen by the school's two "School Safety Personnel" who will serve work closely with its members on creating a successful school campaign.

The club will meet for eight sessions each semester. The sessions will be held after-school on a weekly basis for 1 ½ hour. The sessions will be provided by the BTB after school agency assigned to the school campus. The club's members will participate in a Student-Led Conference that will be held at a selected College/University. At this conference, the students will have the opportunity to meet AFTC members from other campuses, make presentations about their year-long campaigns, and generate new ideas for future campaigns.

School Safety Personnel

Beyond the Bell will partner with the City Attorney's Office, School Police, and campus wellness centers to develop a "trainer of trainers" model, to: 1) educate school safety personnel on these tobacco-free policies; 2) equip them with specific techniques for enforcing these policies; and 3) promote awareness on the proliferation and consequences of the different vaping devices. The school's two "School Safety Personnel" will provide similar, multi-lingual training for students, parents, and other school staff members to promote awareness of all forms of tobacco products, including vaping devices such as JUULs. This training will allow school staff and parents to support LAUSD's newly adopted *Ask, Advise, Refer* policy related to the use of tobacco products on campus, which is designed to refer students to appropriate help, rather than punish them when caught using tobacco products on campus.

The grant will be administered by Francisca Gamez, BTB Coordinator, who will be responsible for ensuring the program meets the objectives identified in the grant application which are to:

- Ensure adherence to the District's tobacco-free policy
- Educate all stakeholders on the use of tobacco and nicotine products including e-cigarettes and vaporizers
- Establish an Advocates For Healthy Choices (AFHC) Club

Staff members who would be strong candidates for the "School Safety Personnel" position are: Counselors, Restorative Justice Teachers, Deans, Coordinators, and/or Pupil Services and Attendance Counselors.