



Need Statement – Example 4

Financial Aid for Adolescents in Chemical Dependency Treatment

According to *Booze News*, young people begin drinking at 13.1 years old. The highest rates of illicit drug use are found among youth ages 16-17 (16%) and ages 18-20 (20%), with marijuana the most common illicit drug used. More than 80% of high school seniors have used alcohol. In comparison, 64% have smoked cigarettes; 50% have used marijuana; and 10% have used cocaine. Not only does alcohol and drug use affect grade school students, but use often increases in college. According to questionnaire—based self-reports about their drinking, 31% of college students met the criteria for a diagnosis of alcohol abuse, and six percent for a diagnosis of alcohol dependence in the past 12 months. About 25 percent of college students report academic consequences of their drinking, including missing classes, falling behind, doing poorly on exams and papers, and receiving lower grades overall.

Most adolescents who need substance abuse treatment do not receive it. In Minnesota, about one in five adolescents who needs this kind of treatment actually gets it, according to the Minnesota Department of Human Services. In 1999 only 3,500 adolescents received treatment out of an estimated 18,000 in need of such care. These vulnerable adolescents have lower cognitive skills, shorter attention spans, greater problems with depression, and less effective social skills than their healthy peers.

Adolescents who seek help for chemical dependency find themselves challenged to obtain the financial assistance need for overcoming their disease. They are not able to obtain the financial means to help them pay for treatment. Those who do not receive assistance through treatment programs, such as HYCF, often return to their old using environments and patterns. Just as with any other disease, chemical dependency, if caught early, may be treated and coped with. However, rather than fighting the problem of chemical dependency, insurance companies are saying *no* to assistance programs, essentially ignoring the problem rather than solving it.

Given current downward sloping economic conditions and political unrest, we are looking to our youth as the hope of our country and the world. However, many bright and creative youth are battling the disease of chemical dependency. The consequences of adolescent drug and alcohol consumption cost nearly \$53 billion annually. If this cost were shared by each congressional district, the amount would total more than \$120 million per district. HYCF agrees that we have an obligation to our youth and to the future to provide assistance to those who want help with drug addiction.



Grant Training Center

1901 N Fort Myer Drive
Suite 1016
Arlington, VA 22209

Hazelden's mission began 53 years ago and was founded on the philosophy of a holistic approach to treatment, concentrating on every aspect of the individual's life. Additionally, we specialize in treating dual diagnosis disorders, meaning that chemical dependency may not be the only vulnerability of our patients. We teach adolescents adequate coping techniques to be able to face addiction triggers, giving youth the tools to live a sober life. The core of our philosophy of treatment is chemical dependency education. We find that this education is the key to giving adolescents resources to overcome addiction. Many of our patients obtain academic credits while at HCYF and are able to attend college in sober living environments. Following the Twelve Steps, we attend to their physical, mental, and spiritual needs in recovery and prepare adolescents to become leaders in society.

Last year alone, through the generosity of Hazelden donors, the Hazelden Foundation gave \$5.3 million in financial assistance to those who could not afford treatment. We also began a program called *The Northland Project*, a drug and alcohol prevention program that was presented at 10 middle schools. This project is growing, and we expect to reach many more middle schools across the country. *The Northland Project* is currently preparing a new curriculum targeted to high schools. Additionally, *Roots and Wings*, which was presented in six counties, was developed as a prevention curriculum for parents and young people. In 2001 *No Bullying*, a curriculum offering grade-specific activities to prevent violence, aggression, and bullying was very successful. Finally, *Alternative Routes* was introduced; it is a new alcohol and drug abuse prevention program that helps troubled youth get back on track.

We believe that the Kellogg Foundation will agree with our mission of renewing, refocusing, and reconnecting adolescents to society through treatment and education. Our multidisciplinary team is well equipped to deal with all aspects of addiction. However, one thing we cannot provide adolescents with on our own is sufficient financial aid to assist them with the cost of treatment. This is why we are asking Kellogg to provide us with a donation of \$200,000 annually for the next three years to provide additional adolescents with treatment and education to overcome this disease.