

***VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR HEALTHY YOUTH AWARDS GRANT TO
PROVIDE SA PREVENTION SERVICES TO PRE-SCHOOLERS***

The Eastern Shore Community Services Board (ESCSB) in partnership with Project Head Start, Accomack County Public Schools and Northampton County Public Schools was awarded a grant by the Virginia Foundation For Healthy Youth (VFHY), in order to provide substance abuse prevention services to each pre- School aged youth attending pre-school in the mentioned school systems. This is the 5th consecutive year the ESCSB has received this grant and provided substance abuse prevention services to Project Head Start and the 3rd consecutive year for Northampton County Public Schools and 2 consecutive years it will provide these services to Accomack County Public Schools. Funding has been awarded in the amount of \$179,260 for the grant term of July 1, 2012-June 30, 2015.

During the school year, the ESCSB will coordinate implementation of the resiliency-based early childhood curriculum known as Al's Pals: Kids Making Healthy Choices in a total of 28 Pre-K classrooms to approximately 500 children in both counties. Trained prevention professionals from the ESCSB will deliver Al's Pals lessons to the pre-schoolers, while Pre-K teachers, also trained in the delivery of Al's Pals, reinforce the curriculum with the students throughout the year. The Al's pals curriculum was designed to develop personal, social and emotional skills in children ages three to eight years old through 46 brief interactive lessons which teach children to express feelings appropriately; care about others; use self-control; think independently; accept differences; make safe and healthy choices and solve problems peacefully, among other pro-social goals and objectives.

For additional information on the Al's Pals program and/or other substance abuse prevention programs, please contact Kelly Bulin, SA Prevention Supervisor, at 757.442.5388.