



# U.S. Department Health and Human Services

Sample Projects Evaluated by PEER

## **FCASV Rape Prevention and Education: Assessing Coalition Capacity to Advance Primary Prevention (2023–2024)**

The Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV) is Florida’s federally designated State Sexual Assault Coalition. This Centers for Disease Control and Prevention project aims to improve health outcomes for people who are experiencing disparities and inequities that are related to sexual violence. This one-year project is aimed at building and enhancing involves conducting a Primary Prevention Capacity Assessment of FCASV readiness to plan and implement strategies and recommendations to promote health equity and address prevention capacity for populations and communities with a high burden of sexual violence (SV), assess existing partnerships to determine gaps, and identify collaboratives to advance health equity and align the coalition and Florida’s Rape Prevention and Education program primary prevention efforts.

- Principal Investigator: Jennifer Dritt, Florida Council Against Sexual Violence

## **Eradicating Misconceptions about Viruses using Multimodal Trace Data in an Intelligent Game-based Environment across Educational Contexts (2023–2028)**

The goal of this National Institutes of Health Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) sponsored project is to create an innovative and inclusive educational program designed to identify, describe, and correct public misconceptions about viruses, particularly relating to the ongoing SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Misconceptions about infectious diseases can increase non-compliance with public health recommendations, resulting in serious medical, economic, and social challenges. To target these misconceptions, the program employs a game-based learning environment to teach students about infectious diseases in a grade-appropriate manner that is both engaging and informative. This program is being implemented in schools, science museums, and pediatric hospitals.

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Barrie Robison, University of Idaho

## **Florida Department of Health Colorectal Cancer Control Program (2020–2025)**

PEER provides program analysis and evaluation services for the State of Florida, Department of Health’s Control Colorectal Cancer Control (CRCCP) program. The purpose of the program is to increase colorectal cancer screening rates among persons 50 to 75 years old within partner health systems through health system changes and implementation of evidence-based interventions and other supporting strategies in partnership with health systems to institute organized screening programs.

## **Empower Orange: Empowering Adolescents to Engage in Healthy Sexual Behaviors (2018–2023)**

This Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Promoting Adolescent Health through School-Based HIV Prevention project funded to the School Board of Orange County (OCPS) was implemented to deliver enhanced and effective skills-based sexual health education (SHE); provide adolescent access to on-site and off-site sexual health services (SHS); and implement best classroom management practices and promote positive youth development activities through safe and supportive environments (SSE). The project focused on 11 priority middle and high schools, aiming to directly impact over 31,000 students through implementation of numerous program activities related to SHE, SHS and SSE. Technical assistance was provided by partner organizations focusing on SHS and SSE activities to better meet the needs of LGBT youth in the community who are more likely to experience a diminished safe and supportive environment.

- Principal Investigator: Brenda Christopher-Muench, Orange County Public Schools



**Florida Rape Prevention and Education Program (2018–2025)**

The Florida Department of Health, Community Health Promotion/Violence and Injury Prevention Program received an award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve the ability of Rape Prevention Education funded organizations to implement primary sexual violence prevention. PEER provides technical assistance to work with DOH staff, key stakeholders (identified by DOH staff), and contracted providers, to identify appropriate data collection strategies, and assist with the creation of a logic model to describe the state programs; execute evaluation of prioritized aspects of state level activities and the design of general state and community level evaluations; identify and assess existing data sources for their potential use; use a variety of approaches to assist in the evaluation process; and translate and facilitate the use of findings for effective program planning, delivery, and continuous improvement.

- Violence and Injury Prevention Section Administrator and RPE Director: Rhonda Jackson, Florida Department of Health

**Osceola County Children's Mental Health Initiative – System of Care Expansion (2017–2018)**

PEER evaluated year one of the School District of Osceola County's four-year System of Care grant awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The federal funding supported the expansion and sustainability of comprehensive community mental health services for pre- kindergarten through Grade 5 children with serious emotional disturbances (SED). The school district built an expanded System of Care on previous advances that emerged from the Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) Initiative and Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education) grant outcomes, such as creating a centralized mental health services referral system and training more than 400 Mental Health First Aiders. Community agency leaders realized that services offered in silos adversely impact children and families. This expansion continued the important work of eliminating these gaps and integrating critical services. Collaboration involved state and local child-serving agencies. The driving goal was to improve the outcomes and supports for these children, their families, and their caregivers.

- Project Coordinator: Elizabeth Lane, School District of Osceola County