



NEWS RELEASE

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For more information, contact:
Ashley Jacobs
Program Coordinator
(540) 672-5484 ext. 1

ORANGE COUNTY OFFICE ON YOUTH BEGINS YEAR THREE OF PROGRAMMING WITH GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR HEALTHY YOUTH

Orange County, VA – The Orange County Office on Youth is gearing up for its third year of tobacco prevention programming from the most recent round of funding from the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY). Heading into year three, the Office on Youth has \$59,504 remaining of the original \$178,374 award.

This grant funding will allow the Office on Youth to offer the Strengthening Families Program to Orange County youth, ages 10-14, twice in FY18. Additionally, the Positive Action Program will be offered for kindergartners through fifth graders at all three (3) school-age child care sites (Locust Grove Primary School, Orange Elementary School, and Gordon-Barbour Elementary School).

The Positive Action Program teaches and reinforces the intuitive philosophy that you feel good about yourself when you do positive actions. The effects of this program range from increased academic achievement to dramatic reductions in problem behaviors. By offering this specific program, the Office on Youth is able to work with a wide range of children and reinforce positive actions for our youngest students.

The Strengthening Families Program has been implemented internationally and is a skill-building curriculum that is proven to delay the onset of adolescent substance use, lower levels of aggression in youth, increase youth resistance to peer pressure, and reduce youth conduct problems in school. The program is also designed to improve parent skills, including building a positive relationship with their youth, setting appropriate limits, and following through on consequences, while showing love and support for their children.

Registration is now open for the Fall Strengthening Families Program, which is slated to begin Tuesday, November 7, 2017, and be held at Orange Baptist Church in the Town of Orange. The program is free, open to all families with youth ages 10-14, includes dinner for the whole family, childcare for children under the age of 10, and Sheetz gift cards weekly for transportation.

Registration is also open for all three (3) school-age child care programs for the 2017-2018 school year and the Positive Action Program is offered at no additional cost.

For additional information about the Strengthening Families Program or the Positive Action Program, please contact Ashley Jacobs, Program Coordinator, at (540) 672-5484 or visit www.orangecountyva.gov/officeonyouth. For additional information about the important work of the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth, please visit www.vfhy.org.

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