

## **Funding Criteria for Abstinence-Only Programs**

Some Abstinence-only education are supported by Section 510 of The Social Security Act and administered by the Administration of Children and Families since 2004. The provisions of the program include an eight point definition of abstinence-only as an educational goal with the following criteria:

1. Has as its exclusive purpose, teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity.
2. Teaches abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage as the expected standard for all school-age children.
3. Teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems.
4. Teaches that a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in the context of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity.
5. Teaches that sexual activity outside of the context of marriage is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects.
6. Teaches that bearing children out-of-wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents, and society.
7. Teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances.
8. And, teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.

These criteria exclude many Abstinence-plus programs which have been found to be effective in delaying sexual initiation of youth and other positive behavioral outcomes. (See "Scientific Information Demonstrate that Abstinence-plus programs work to delay initiation of sex by youth" fact sheet)