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**IN BRIEF**  
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Sunday, August 30, 2009

**Grant Supports Efforts To Prevent Tobacco Use**

Loudoun County has received a three-year foundation grant to continue its tobacco prevention programs.

The \$112,010 will be used to support one part-time instructor to provide tobacco prevention programming to at-risk elementary, middle and high school-age youths at five after-school program sites. They are Evans Ridge Apartments and Fields of Leesburg and Sugarland Elementary, Sterling Middle and Park View High schools.

The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth grant was awarded to the county's division of mental health and substance abuse services. It was the second time the division received the three-year grant.

Prevention and intervention staff members will serve 150 at-risk youths ages 8 to 18 in grades 3 to 12.

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They will use the Life Skills Training program, which focuses on changing children's attitudes and norms about drug abuse. Results from a recent study found that the program can cut cigarette smoking by 61 percent, reduce alcohol use, increase self-esteem, change attitudes and improve knowledge of important life skills.

**Neighborhood Program Information Goes Online**

Information about Loudoun County's Neighborhood Stabilization Program is available online at <http://www.loudoun.gov/nsp>.

[www.loudoun.gov/nsp](http://www.loudoun.gov/nsp).

Loudoun was awarded a \$2 million grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development this year to address the foreclosure crisis.

The money will be used to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed houses, which will then be sold to low-, moderate- and middle-income buyers. The houses are in neighborhoods hardest hit by foreclosures in Sterling Park and Sugarland Run.

— Compiled by **KAFIA A. HOSH**

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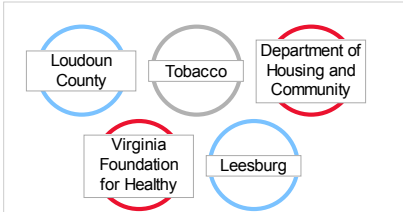
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