

TIPS is a nationally-recognized program that teaches bartenders, wait staff, and retail vendors about the legal responsibilities of selling alcohol, how to identify fake IDs, and how to recognize intoxicated patrons and refuse sales when necessary. The Council is pleased to announce that starting in 2010 we will be offering the TiPS program to our community. Council-sponsored courses can be scheduled at any time. Please call Adriane Arnado or Shannon Lecomte at (845) 471-0194 for more information.

The courses are geared for either bar and restaurant staff or retail and package store staff, and are taught by certified TIPS trainers. Participants must pass a multiple-choice exam to receive a certification card. Certification is valid for three years.

Each TIPS course consists of three main areas of focus: Information, Skills Training, and Practice/Rehearsal.

Information:

- Behavioral Cues - Visible, progressive signs of intoxication
- Blood Alcohol Content - The level of alcohol in a person's bloodstream
- Absorption Rate Factors - Factors that affect the absorption of alcohol
- Effective Responses - Intervention strategies to prevent alcohol-related problems
- Checking IDs - Proper formats and things to look for on an ID
- State-Specific Information - Including laws that relate to alcohol and/or alcohol servers
- Documenting Incidents - Forms to use to document problem situations

Skills Training

This section is presented in two parts: Evaluating Cues and Evaluating Responses. Participants review a short video scene, rate the scene according to a predetermined rating chart, and then explain why they chose the rating they did. This section helps develop participants' ability to assess behavior and intoxication levels, and determine appropriate responses to each situation.

Practice/Rehearsal

Participants participate in role-playing exercises to demonstrate their ability to effectively intervene in difficult alcohol-related situations. The trainers and other participants offer feedback on the intervention techniques used.

More information can be found at the TIPS website, at <http://www.gettips.com>. TIPS is available through Health Communications, Inc., based in Arlington, Virginia.

Our Trainers

In December 2009, two members of the CAPE staff attended a “train the trainer” workshop at the Four Seasons Hotel in New York City. Shannon Lecomte, the Executive Assistant and Victim Impact Panel Director and Adriane Arnado, the Community Educator, were certified to train others in the Tips program.

Schedule a Training

The CAPE Tips trainers are happy to schedule Tips courses for interested businesses as the need arises. It is required that at least 5 participants attend the class. The course can be held onsite at the bar or restaurant for the staff who need to be trained.

For more information, call 845-471-0194 or send e-mail to aarnado@capedc.org or slecomte@capedc.org .