

Strategic Prevention Framework Process

1. Profile population needs, resources, and readiness to address the problems and gaps in service delivery

Community Role: Communities must accurately assess their substance abuse-related problems using epidemiological data provided by the State as well as other local data. The epidemiological data must identify the magnitude of the problem to be addressed, where the problem is greatest, and risk and protective factors associated with the problem. Communities must also assess community assets and resources, gaps in services and capacity and readiness to act.

2. Mobilize and/or build capacity to address needs

Community Role: Engagement of key stakeholders at the State and community levels is critical to plan and implement successful prevention activities that will be sustained over time. Key tasks may include, but are not limited to, convening leaders and stakeholders; building coalitions; training community stakeholders, coalitions, and service providers; organizing agency networks; leveraging resources; and engaging stakeholders to help sustain the activities.

3. Develop a Comprehensive Strategic Plan

Community Role: Communities must develop a strategic plan that articulates not only a vision for the prevention activities, but also strategies for organizing and implementing prevention efforts. The strategic plan must be based on documented needs, build on identified resources/strengths, set measurable objectives and include the performance measures and baseline data against which progress will be monitored. Plans must be adjusted as the result of ongoing needs assessment and monitoring activities. The issue of sustainability should be a constant throughout each step of planning and implementation and should lead to the creation of a long-term strategy to sustain policies, programs, and practices.

The strategic plans must be data-driven and focused on addressing the most critical needs in the State. *The State Strategic Plan must be approved by the SAMHSA/CSAP Government Project Officer before implementation activities can begin.*

4. Implement evidence-based prevention programs and infrastructure development activities

Community Role: Similarly, local stakeholders will use the findings of their needs assessments to guide selection and implementation of policies, programs and practices proven to be effective in research settings and communities. Community implementers must ensure that culturally competent adaptations are made without sacrificing the core elements of the program. SAMHSA especially encourages the selection and adaption of programs contained in the National Registry of Effective Programs (NREP), though this is not a requirement of the SPF SIG. (See Appendix C of information about NREP.)

5. Monitor process, evaluate effectiveness, sustain effective programs/activities, and improve or replace those that fail

Community Role: Ongoing monitoring and evaluation are essential to determine whether or not the outcomes desired are achieved and to assess program effectiveness and service delivery quality. Communities must provide performance data to the SPF SIG States on a regular basis, so that the States can monitor, evaluate, sustain and improve the Strategic Prevention Framework activities in the State.