

The Strategic Prevention Framework

The Drug-Free Communities Support Program initiative utilizes the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) developed by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The five elements that make up the SPF assist communities to develop the infrastructure needed for a community-based, public health approach leading to effective and sustainable reductions in alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use and abuse.

The five elements include:

Assessment. Collect data to define problems, resources, and readiness within a geographic area to address needs and gaps.

Capacity. Mobilize and/or build capacity within a geographic area to address needs.

Planning. Develop a comprehensive strategic plan that includes policies, programs, and practices creating a logical, data-driven plan to address problems identified in Step 1.

Implementation. Implement evidence-based prevention programs, policies, and practices.

Evaluation. Measure the impact of the SPF and the implemented programs, policies, and practices.

Additionally, Sustainability and Cultural Competence have been added to the core of the framework as both are necessary in developing an effective coalition.

