

Partnerships for Success Program in Rhode Island

Overview of the Partnerships for Success (PFS) Program

The Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) grant program is administered by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The SPF-PFS grant program is intended to prevent the onset and reduce the progression of substance misuse and its related problems while strengthening prevention capacity and infrastructure at the State, tribal, and community levels.

The purpose of the grant program is to address two of the nation's top substance abuse prevention priorities: 1) underage drinking among youth between the ages of 12 and 20; and 2) prescription drug misuse among individuals between the ages of 12 and 25. Grantees may also use grant funds to target an additional, data-driven substance abuse prevention priority (e.g. marijuana, heroin, etc.) in their State/tribe.

PFS is based on the premise that changes at the community level will lead to measurable changes at the State level. Through collaboration, States/tribes and their PFS-funded communities of high need can overcome challenges associated with substance misuse. PFS programs also aim to bring SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) to a national scale, giving grant recipients the chance to acquire more resources to implement the SPF.

SPF-PFS in Rhode Island

Who is involved in the grant program?

The Rhode Island Division of Behavioral Healthcare Services is the recipient of the SPF-PFS in the State.

Other agencies that are represented on the State Epidemiological Outcome Workgroup (SEOW)/steering committee to help with identification of high-need communities, data collection, reporting, and other grant-related activities include: Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Youth, Children and Families, Brown University, University of Rhode Island, and the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation.

How long is the grant?

Rhode Island currently has a PFS award that began in FY 2014 and will end in FY 2018.

How much funding does Rhode Island receive?

The PFS 2015 award is \$2,202,611 annually, or \$11,013,055 for the total 5-year grant cycle. **The PFS grant represents 35 percent of the State agency's total substance abuse budget.**

Focus of Rhode Island's SPF-PFS program:

The PFS award has two priority areas for youth: 1) preventing marijuana use, and 2) preventing underage alcohol use. There are 17 community coalitions in the State that are funded as sub-recipients of PFS. Activities include

- It Starts With You statewide media campaign;
- Project Northland;
- Parents Who Host Lose the Most campaign;
- high visibility enforcement (alcohol compliance checks, party patrols, etc.);
- Project Alert;
- MADD Power of Parents;
- Assets Champion Collective;
- Above the Influence;
- parent workshops;
- Positive Action;
- Project Success; and
- Life of an Athlete.

These coalition-led programs have reached over 60,000 youth.

Outcomes of SPF-PFS:

As of 2015, the SPF-PFS program in Rhode Island has resulted in the following outcomes:

- Among the high school student population, RI fares better than the national average for use of marijuana before age 13 and prescription drug misuse in the past year.
- Alcohol consumption indicators for high school students including past month use, binge drinking in the past month, use of alcohol before age 13, drinking and driving in the past month, and being in the car with a driver who had been drinking in the past month, all had lower prevalence in RI as compared to the US in the past three data collection points (2009, 2011, and 2013).
- When alcohol consumption for high school students were compared regionally, RI high school students were lower in prevalence compared to other regional States for ever having had at least one drink of alcohol and binge drinking in the past month.

For further information about the SPF-PFS in Rhode Island, contact the State Director:

Rebecca Boss, Director

Division of Behavioral Healthcare Services
14 Harrington Rd., Barry Hall Bldg. #52
Cranston, RI 02920-3080

T: (401) 462-3291

F: (401) 462-6078

E: rebecca.boss@bhddh.ri.gov

CC: connie.cirelli@bhddh.ri.gov