

Partnerships for Success Program in Alabama

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 Alabama

Who is involved in the grant program?

The Alabama Department of Mental Health 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: Alabama Department of Public Health; Alabama Board of Pharmacy; Alabama Department of Mental Health; Office of Prevention Services; Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives; Alabama Department of Human Resources; Alabama Department of Pardons and Paroles; Alabama Department of Youth Services; Department of Rehabilitation; Alabama Law Enforcement Administration; Alabama Department of Revenue; University of Alabama; Alabama Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association; Alabama State Department of Education; and the Sentencing Commission.

How long is the grant?

Alabama currently has a PFS award that began in FY 2015 and will end in FY 2020.

How much funding does Alabama receive?

The PFS award is \$735,018 annually, or \$3,675,090 for the total 5-year grant cycle. This amounts to 9% of the State's entire substance abuse prevention budget.

Focus of Alabama's SPF-PFS program

The focus of the PFS in Alabama is underage drinking and prescription drug misuse prevention. Specifically, PFS seeks to prevent and reduce underage drinking, young adult problem drinking, prescription drug misuse and the negative consequences in 12-20 year-olds. Additionally, PFS funds are used to improve capacity and infrastructure in communities with health disparities, less access to care, and poorer behavioral health outcomes in eight high-need counties: Greene, Lowndes, Marengo, Perry, Sumter, Tallapoosa, Washington and Wilcox.

Seven of the eight identified counties are representative of the Black Belt Region of Alabama. These counties include some of the poorest counties in the United States. Along with the high rates of poverty, declining

populations, high unemployment, poor access to education and medical care, and substandard housing, the need for increased capacity and resources within these communities are essential to continue to address the correlation of lack of resources, inequitable access to social systems, behavioral health disparities, cultural perception, and underage drinking.

PFS Outcomes in Alabama

When determining the measurable outcomes for the Alabama PFS project, sub-recipient counties utilized the outcomes data emerging from the final SPF-State Incentive Grant (SIG) evaluation report as baseline data. Using these final SPF data as baseline not only allowed the grantees to continue successful interventions implemented during the SPF-SIG program, but also focus on SPF outcomes that signaled opportunities for concerted focus, re-evaluation, and program improvement. For example, while consumption and consequence patterns continued to improve over time across the projects, the challenge of instilling positive behavior change as indicated by risk and protective factor data as an indicator for success continues to test grantee staff and community coalitions.

Data indicate that during the transition from SPF to PFS, the following trends across projects were realized:

- Past 30-day use of alcohol dropped 71%
- Past 30-day use of prescription drugs dropped 163%
- Binge drinking dropped 60%
- Riding in a car with a drinking driver dropped on average 183%
- Drinking and driving dropped on average 57%

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

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