

Partnerships for Success Program in Georgia

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 Georgia

Who is involved in the grant program?

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities 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: The Council on Alcohol and Drugs, Inc. (TCAD); Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH); Georgia Department of Education – Safe and Drug Free Schools (GDOE); Georgia Drug and Narcotics Agency (GDNA); Georgia Pharmacy Association (GPhA); Medical Association of Georgia (MAG); Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA); Georgia Attorney General; Georgia Prevention Partnership (GPP); Research Triangle Institute (RTI); Georgia Department of Revenue (GDOR); Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC); Georgia Colleges and Universities; Center for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC); and High Intensity Drug Traffic Area Agency (HIDTA).

How long is the grant?

Georgia currently has a PFS award that began in September 2015 and will end in September 2020.

How much does Georgia receive?

The PFS award is \$735,018 annually, or \$3,675,090 for the total 5-year grant cycle. The SPF-PFS represents approximately 22% of Georgia's total annual substance abuse prevention budget.

Focus of Georgia's SPF-PFS program:

Georgia's PFS initiative focuses on the prevention of prescription drug misuse, opioid addiction, and heroin use. Specifically, the PFS grant targets the 12 – 25 age group from all races and cultural groups. Georgia is completing year 2 of the SPF-PFS grant for the prevention and misuse of prescription medications in three high-need counties: Catoosa, Early and Gwinnett.

Through the recent completion of a needs assessment in the three high-need communities, the State has been made aware that the non-medical use of prescription drugs (NMUPD) is an even more severe problem than initially perceived. This needs assessment process and findings indicated that there are low perceptions of risk in the community, and that friends and family members routinely share medications due to the low perception of harm and lack of awareness of and concern for potential addiction.

Additionally, the needs assessment found that lack of education and poverty may have a correlation on use of opioids. Immigrant and minority populations have also verbalized that sharing of medications is more prominent due to the lack of health care insurance coverage in these populations and the general high cost of these and other prescription medications. Focus groups also indicated that low income persons that are on Medicaid may acquire these opioid pain medications and have sold them to enhance their income and keep some of these medications for themselves for use.

Georgia is finding that prevention efforts should be focused on the middle and high school populations to raise their perception of harm and raise awareness of the serious addictive properties of these medications.

Outcomes of SPF-PFS:

- Georgia's SPF-PFS 2015 award has allowed the State to bring more awareness and education about the non-medical use of prescription drugs to Georgia's communities.
- The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Office of Behavioral Health Prevention has considered the full continuum of services necessary to prevent and develop treatment capacity for those persons affected by the prescription and illicit medication/drug crisis.
- The SPF-PFS grant has fostered a robust collaborative approach to address the opioid crisis within the State.
- SEOW partners and the high-risk communities have acquired the knowledge and awareness of the problem of the prescription opioid misuse and the growing heroin, fentanyl, and carfentanyl epidemic.
- Georgia has moved the needle as the State continues to use both its own as well as federal resources to provide education, monitoring, safe storage and proper disposal of medications, and enforcement strategies to reduce prescription drug misuse and illicit use of drugs.
- SPF-PFS is viewed as a valuable resource to Georgia as the State continues efforts to prevent the use of prescription drugs.

For further information about the SPF-PFS in Georgia, contact:

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