

## **Partners in Prevention Mentoring Grant for the BASE Coalition in Evansville 2010-2012 (Oct-Sept grant cycle)**

Partners in Prevention, Rock County received a \$75k a year (for two years) grant to mentor the Building a Safer Evansville (BASE) coalition.

There are two goals in the mentoring process:

- (1) Increase the capacity of the coalition to become a Drug Free Communities eligible coalition
- (2) Increase the coalition's capacity to effectively reduce youth substance use in the Evansville School District.

Coalitions are partnerships of the many sectors in the community who work collaboratively together to solve local issues

- Youth
- Parents
- Businesses
- Media
- Schools
- Youth serving organizations
- Law enforcement
- Faith based community
- Civic and volunteer groups
- Health care professionals
- State, local or tribal agencies
- Other organizations involved in reducing substance abuse

The Drug Free Communities (DFC) program uses the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) developed by The Department of health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

**Assessment:** collect data to define problems, resources and readiness within the community

**Capacity:** Build the coalition and the community's capacity to address the needs

**Planning:** Develop a comprehensive strategic plan

**Implementation:** Implement evidence-based prevention programs, policies and practices

**Evaluation:** Measure the impact of the SPF and it's implementation.

### **Sustainability & Cultural Competence**

#### **Increasing the Age of Initiation**

- Adolescents who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence. Each additional year of delayed drinking onset reduces the probability of alcohol dependence by 14%.<sup>1</sup>
- Of youth who began drinking before age 15, 40% were classified as dependent later in life.<sup>2</sup>
- Children who first smoke marijuana under the age of 14 are more than five times as likely to abuse drugs as adults, than those who first use marijuana at age 18.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Perception of Risk and Social Disapproval**

- Research demonstrates that illegal drug use among youth declines as the perception of risk and social disapproval increases.
- Softening attitudes generally precede an increase in drug use rates by approximately two years.

#### **Effective Substance Abuse Prevention involves:**

- Reducing the availability of alcohol, tobacco and drugs;
- Reducing access to alcohol, tobacco and drugs;
- Enforcing consequences for alcohol and drug related offenses;
- Changing attitudes and perceptions about the dangers and acceptability of alcohol, tobacco and drugs;
- Changing social norms about alcohol, tobacco and drugs;
- Raising awareness about the costs and consequences of alcohol, tobacco and drugs; and
- Building skills in youth, parents and communities to deal with these issues effectively.

### **Seven strategies to affect community change**

1. Provide information –( presentations, workshops, community meetings, forums)
2. Enhance skills- (workshops, seminars, training, technical assistance)
3. Provide support- (create opportunities to support people to participate in activities (alternative activities, mentoring, support groups)
4. Enhance access/reduce barriers-( Improving access to treatment, childcare, transportation, housing education, special needs, cultural and language sensitivity)
5. Change consequences – (changing behavior by altering consequences for that behavior (increasing public recognition, citations, fines, loss of privileges)
6. Change physical design- changing the physical design to reduce risk or enhance protections: (lighting, landscape, outlet density)
7. Modify/change policy- Formal change in written procedure, by-laws, proclamations, rules or laws (workplace initiative, law enforcement procedures and practices, public policy actions, community organizations)