

SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework is a dynamic, data-driven planning process that prevention practitioners can use to understand and more effectively address the substance abuse and related mental health problems facing their communities.



## Understanding the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)

Throughout all five steps remember . . .

*There are many ways to view the world, so make sure that your plan values, respects, and accepts the differences of all people in the community.*

*Also, work toward maintaining not only effective interventions, but also the planning processes that contribute to their success.*

### **Step 1. Assessment**—*Discover what your community needs*

- What substance use and related problems are occurring in your community?
- How often and where are these problems occurring?
- Who are these problems affecting the most?
- Is your community ready to do something about it?

### **Step 2. Capacity Building**—*Find out what your community needs to address identified problems*

- Who are the people whose help you need? How can you engage them in your prevention efforts?
- What types of knowledge and skills does your prevention team need to work together effectively?
- How can you raise community awareness of the problems you hope to address? Don't forget to think outside the box!

### **Step 3. Planning**—*Develop a detailed plan that links desired outcomes to identified needs.*

- What are the underlying factors that contribute to your community's problems? How will you prioritize these factors?
- Where will you go to find interventions that address your priority factors? Are they a good fit for your community?
- How will you communicate your plans to key stakeholders?

### **Step 4. Implementation**—*Put your plan into action by delivering evidence-based interventions, as intended.*

- Have you built the infrastructure you need to support effective implementation of your plan?
- How will you know if your plan is being implemented as intended?

### **Step 5. Evaluation**—*Assess the effectiveness of your prevention efforts. Evaluation can help you:*

- Document and describe your prevention activities
- Meet the diverse information needs of your stakeholders
- Continuously improve your prevention activities
- Demonstrate the impact of your efforts
- Identify which elements of your plan are working well
- Build credibility and support for prevention in your community