

NOTES

Substance Use Prevention in Texas via HHSC

1. State Substance Use Prevention is funded using a mix of federal and state funds:
 - a. Federal block grant awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): the Substance Abuse and Treatment and Prevention Block Grant (SABG)
 - b. State General Revenue/Maintenance of Effort
 - c. Federal discretionary grants awarded by SAMHSA
2. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) oversees SAMHSA block and discretionary grants awarded to the state.
 - a. SAMHSA Block Grant: HHSC contracts with community-based organizations using funds from the SABG to provide youth substance use prevention services:
 - i. Youth Prevention Programs: Youth prevention (YP) providers implement SAMHSA's six Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) strategies in order to impact the risk and protective factors associated with substance use, with a focus on the statewide prevention priorities of underage drinking, marijuana use, and prescription drug misuse and abuse. Providers disseminate information in their communities, provide alternative activities, work with their local coalitions, and provide problem identification and referral as needed. The majority of funds are used to deliver evidence-based curricula that has been approved by SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP).
 1. Providers choose from pre-selected curricula based on their identified population needs. Three types of programming are funded – universal programming designed to reach the general population ages 6-18 (61 current contracts), selective programming designed to target at-risk subgroups ages 6-18 (55 current contracts), and indicated programming designed to target at-risk individuals ages 11-21 who are experiencing early signs of substance use and other related problem behaviors (47 current contracts).
 - ii. Community Coalitions: HHSC contracts with 52 community coalitions to address community concerns regarding the prevention and reduction of the illegal and harmful use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. The primary emphasis is the reduction in youth and young adult use by promoting and conducting community-based and environmental strategies.
 1. Contractors to implement the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) model for evidence-based practices within community coalitions. These evidence-based strategies include: assistance to communities in monitoring the enforcement of laws relative to the sale of alcohol and tobacco to minors, affecting the promotion and availability of substances in the community, and affecting social norms and community beliefs about alcohol, tobacco, and substance use. Other

strategies include the development of comprehensive school policies, providing assistance to schools and community partners, and educating policy makers on the needs and gaps in substance use services.

- iii. Prevention Resource Centers: HHSC contracts with 11 Prevention Resource Centers (PRC). Each PRC functions as a data collection repository, training liaison in substance use prevention, and conducts tobacco compliance check at tobacco merchant retailers. The data collection efforts carried by PRC are focused on the state's prevention priorities of alcohol (underage drinking), marijuana, prescription drugs, tobacco, and other drugs.
 1. Regional PRC Evaluators are responsible for identifying and gathering alcohol and drug consumption data and related risk and protective factors within their respective service regions. Their work serves to provide state and local agencies valuable prevention data to assess target communities and high-risk populations in need of prevention services. Additionally, evaluators provide technical assistance and consultation to providers, community groups and other stakeholders for substance use data collection activities for the data repository.

b. SAMHSA Discretionary Grants

- i. Strategic Prevention Framework Partnership for Success (SPF-PFS) grant is a five year discretionary grant awarded by SAMHSA to HHSC in 2014. The five year grant funds eight community coalitions tasked with reducing underage drinking and prescription drug misuse and abuse. State-level work groups have been established address (1) Prevention Priorities, (2) Evidence Based Practice and (3) State Epidemiological Outcomes.
- ii. Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF-Rx) grant is a five year discretionary grant awarded by SAMHSA to HHSC in 2016. The purpose of the SPF-Rx grant is to raise awareness about the dangers of sharing prescription medications and collaborate with pharmaceutical and medical communities on the risks of over-prescribing to young adults. SPF-Rx grant funds must be used primarily to support infrastructure development and enhance current prescription drug misuse prevention utilizing statewide epidemiological and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) data to identify areas where prescription drug misuse is most prevalent, as well as gaps in PDMP data. Additional requirements are to disseminate the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain and Utilize the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) model to develop a statewide needs assessment, strategic plan, and implementation plan.
- iii. Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR) project is a SAMHSA-discretionary grant that was funded in May 2017. Through this grant, all HHSC-funded universal youth prevention programs are receiving funds to implement opioid misuse prevention activities. Other grant activities target prescribers, trainings on accurately identifying high-risk populations, how to prescribe/dispense/administer naloxone, and how to educate others in overdose response and naloxone administration.

- *Information from HHSC*

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