

# Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative

## *Partners for Healthy Communities*

### Coalition Mission:

“Collaboratively create and sustain a healthy, safe, alcohol and drug free community through transformation of attitudes and norms.”



### Coalition Coordinator

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### *Pasco Discovery Coalition Pasco, Washington*



### About the Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI):

CPWI is a partnership of state agencies, counties, schools and local prevention coalitions supporting communities in preventing alcohol and other drug abuse and its negative consequences. Our highest priority is to reduce underage drinking among 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. By providing evidence-based practices and promoting the positive changes in communities, we can build healthier communities.

### About the Coalition: Communities and Schools Working Together

The Pasco Discovery Coalition (PDC) was founded in 2010, originally as a sub-committee of the Benton-Franklin Substance Abuse Coalition. The PDC draws direction and passion from its wide variety of sector representatives, including school personnel, healthcare professionals, mental health professionals, local government, faith-based organizations, volunteer or civic organizations, local businesses, community members, and youth. Working closely with the community we serve, as well as the Pasco School District, we have brought a number of evidence-based programs to East Pasco schools. We are also working on changing our community environment to better support youth in reaching their potential.

Our strengths lie in the experience and drive of our coalition members. About 20 members meet monthly to make decisions and share our message with a large network of professionals and community members. We also have strong support from the Pasco School District and Educational Service District 123, which is essential to our success as a coalition.

Some challenges we face include balancing the high need of our community with the resources available, and making sure our work is not only culturally competent, but culturally proficient.

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## Other Contacts

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CPWI is funded by:



For more information about  
CPWI visit  
[http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/  
dapreventionservices.shtml](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/dapreventionservices.shtml)

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## About Our Community

Pasco is the third fastest growing city in Eastern Washington, booming from a population of 32,066 in 2000, to a population of 65,600 in 2013. The primary sources of employment for people 16 years and older in Pasco are 17% educational services, healthcare, social assistance; 16% agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, mining; 11% retail trade, and more. Over 55% of Pasco's residents are Hispanic or Latino, and 47% of Franklin County residents speak a language other than English at home.

The average income per person in Pasco is \$17,353, which is much lower than the state average of \$30,661. Additionally, only 14.1% of Pasco residents have a Bachelor's degree or higher, which is less than half of the state average of 31.6%.

Pasco's diversity and pride are celebrated through the annual Fiery Foods Festival, the large farmer's market, a developing downtown area, and a variety of parks and walking trails.

## About Prevention Programs in our Community

The CPWI prevention strategies will target the highest-need area of east Pasco. The school-based prevention program, Second Step, will be implemented at Ochoa Middle School and the two nearby elementary schools, Whittier and Robinson. Pre and post-tests will be used to show change in social competence.

The evidence-based parent education program, Parenting Wisely, will serve approximate 30 parents in east Pasco per year. Pre and post-tests will be administered to show changes in attitudes. Also, PDC will provide the evidence-based program Guiding Good Choices.

The PDC will also implement two environmental strategies. The Access Team will work to improve local retailers' placement and marketing of alcohol and marijuana products, and the Community Policies Team will focus on encouraging drug and alcohol free community events and sports programs.