

Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

Coalition Mission

The mission of the West Spokane Wellness Coalition is to promote community health and wellness strategies that address preventing substance use and supportive community empowerment to strengthen families in West Spokane.

Its commitment is to supporting drug and alcohol prevention, as it overlaps with mental health prevention, suicide prevention, family violence prevention and teen pregnancy prevention.

Coalition Coordinator

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West Spokane Wellness Partnership

Spokane, WA

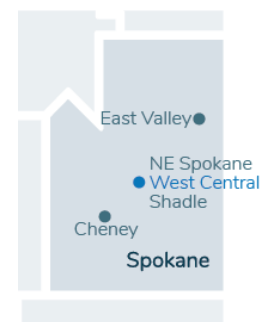
About the Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI)



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. CPWI priorities include reducing underage drinking, marijuana use and opioid misuse/abuse among middle and high school aged youth. By providing evidence-based practices and promoting the positive changes in communities, we can build healthier communities.

About the Coalition: Communities & Schools Working Together

The West Spokane Wellness Partnership is in its tenth year of service to the northwest Spokane area and in Fall 2018, was able to add a Drug-Free Communities grant from the Office of the President to expand its services. The coalition is committed to inviting and including local residents and professionals who provide services in the neighborhood; developing the leadership potential for prevention strategies; educating coalition members on the principles of prevention and evidence-based practice; using risk and protective factors and Social Development Theory to support the choices of programming; and meeting the goal of preventing and/or reducing underage consumption of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.



The Strategic Plan continues the work of the coalition based on the updated assessment of the needs of the community and ongoing development of partnerships to implement new prevention strategies. For the 2020-2021 program year, the Coalition will focus its initiatives on the following:

- Engaging community members and organizing community prevention activities
- Reducing availability and promotion of alcohol, tobacco, opiates and marijuana to underage youth, with a focus on vaping
- Policy work to support enforcement efforts
- Reducing favorable attitudes among youth and adults toward substance use
- Encouraging parents to talk to their kids and to set clear standards and family guidelines around substance use
- Increasing the perception of harm related to all kinds of substance use
- Encouraging youth to commit themselves to school and provide prosocial opportunities

About Our Community

West Central is a racially and ethnically diverse community with unique challenges stemming from a number of factors such as low incomes, health inequities and disparities, high crime rates, and gang and drug activity. However, there are also strengths that exist such as affordable housing, public transportation, a range of social services programs, historical landmarks and business investments.

The coalition holds meetings at the West Central Community Center which is a hub of community resources for the area. Services at the community center include health care, before and after school programs, WIC nutrition program, and Head Start. The Community Center includes a gym and large meeting rooms. Once a year, the City Council holds a meeting in the Community Center. Several times a year community festivals and wellness events take place at the Center as well.

Across the street is the NATIVE Project which has one of the only chemical dependency treatment programs for youth in the city. The NATIVE Project is a health care organization offering medical care, mental health care, chemical dependency treatment, and prevention and wellness activities. Everyone is welcome and a high number of urban Native American people are served.

About Prevention Programs in our Community

There are several key partnerships in the community that allow the Coalition to implement evidence-based programming, as well as support youth engagement specifically with local schools, community organizations, law enforcement, and businesses to create a protective network of prevention services for youth and families. The grant also supports a full-time prevention intervention professional at Glover middle school. Such programs include Botvin Life Skills Training, Too Good for Drugs Prevention Curriculum, Strengthening Families and Guiding Good Choices parenting classes, Positive Action, SPORT, Say it Straight, as well as various youth activities with North Central High School and other community agencies. These programs happen during school, afterschool, and evenings based on program, so they can best serve the community's need.

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CPWI is funded by

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For more information
about CPWI visit
www.TheAthenaForum.org