

Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

Coalition Mission

Creating a safe community in Highland by making it a healthy, drug and alcohol-free community for youth through education, prevention and community support.

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Highland Community Coalition

Tieton/Cowiche, 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

Highland Community Coalition was founded December 2018 and received SOR and PFS funds from CPWI. The Highland School District decided to apply for the CPWI grant due to the fact that Highland is small rural community with limited resources. The goal was to seek help for our youth and our underserved community members in reducing risk and increasing protective factors in the Highland community. Additionally, resources in Highland are very limited that they have to travel about 10 miles to get to a pharmacy.

We have 11 sectors in our coalition including: youth, parents, school, law enforcement, health care, state/government, youth serving organizations, local business, volunteer and civic organizations, other substance use organization and media sector. The coalition is working hard to get our faith sector at the table.

One of the challenges for the coalition is vaping and students utilizing it with low perception of harm. Our strength is that all the coalition members are passionate in creating highland a safer place to live and they are all very dedicated in the work they do.

About Our Community

Highland Junior/Senior High Schools serve the communities of Cowiche, population 428 and Tieton, population 1191 and the surrounding rural area in Yakima County. The district is rural agriculture and is predominately in fruit tree production. Cowiche is an unincorporated community northwest of Yakima, Washington, near the Eastern foothills of the Cascade Mountain range, in Central Washington State. Tieton advertises itself as, “a small Central Washington community resting right on top of the natural beauty of the Yakima Valley. Our little slice of heaven, incorporated as a Town in 1943, started as a small community of farmers and orchardists in 1888.

There are three school buildings in the district which are Marcus Whitman elementary, Tieton Intermediate and Highland Junior High/High School.

About Prevention Programs in our Community

After completing the Highland Community Coalition Needs and Resources assessment and reviewing our Healthy Youth Survey, the Coalition decided to focus in strategies and programs that would be most effective to our community. We decided to focus in programs that would reduce risk factors identified through our assessments.

- Reduce community disorganization by Increasing community and coalition readiness to address alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD)
- Increase community readiness to address laws and norms that are favorable to drug use by Reducing social practices/policy favorable towards the use of alcohol and other drugs within Highland School District
- Reduce availability of use by decreasing social access to alcohol, marijuana, and opioids by information dissemination
- Decrease favorable attitudes towards use by Reducing perception of risk of harm of alcohol and other drug use among youth (under 18)
- Decrease early and Antisocial Behavior by increasing opportunities, skills and recognition to promote attachment to society, community and/or school
- Decrease early Initiation of the problem behavior by decreasing youth intention to use ATOD
- Decrease family management problems by increasing use of family management skills within Highland community families

Other Contacts



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Student Support Program

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CPWI is funded by

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For more information
about CPWI visit

www.TheAthenaForum.org