



# Board of County Commissioners

## **Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success for Communities, Local Governments, Universities, Colleges, and Tribes/Tribal Organizations Federal FY 25-29 (SPF-PFS-Communities/Tribes)- Grant Application Memo**

### **Goals of Funding- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**

The purpose of this grant is to:

- Help reduce the onset and progression of substance misuse and its related problems by supporting the development and delivery of community-based substance misuse prevention and mental health promotion services.
- Expand and strengthen the capacity of local community prevention providers to implement evidence-based prevention programs. With this program SAMHSA aims to strengthen state and community-level prevention capacity to identify and address local substance use prevention concerns, such as underage drinking, marijuana, tobacco, electronic cigarettes, opioids, methamphetamine, and heroin.
- Utilize local, state, and national substance use public health data to identify underserved communities and sub-populations of focus, identify prevention priorities in their state, and develop and implement strategies to prevent the misuse of substances.
- Provide evidence-based services to underserved communities while promoting mental health and wellbeing.

The application is for five years of funding, to be renewed annually, from August 31, 2024 to September 1, 2029. The total requested funds from the SPF-PFS-Communities/Tribes grant will not exceed \$375,000 annually. This funding will support sustaining existing positions for two fully grant-funded staff (county FTEs); a Bilingual Prevention Specialist at 0.70 FTE (\$44,506.00) and a HYA Program Manager and certified prevention specialist at 0.60 FTE (\$46,896.00). The grant also mandates a 50% position for data analysis; HYA is deciding how to leverage existing CSD positions to support the data and evaluation efforts. The SPF-PFS-Communities/Tribes grant does not have any cash/in-kind match. All personnel and operating costs will be covered by this grant and other grant funding received by Healthy Youth Alliance, including the Colorado Substance Abuse Block Grant and the City of Boulder Substance Education and Awareness grant. The due date for the application is Wednesday, February 21, 2024. The application will be submitted via an online federal portal.

HYA's mission is to ensure that all parents, caregivers, and community members have the knowledge and skills to support youth in healthy, positive choices and behaviors. HYA has been implementing substance use prevention efforts since 1993. In the last 15 years, HYA has focused on parents, caregivers, and trusted adults as the first line of prevention (BCPH focuses on youth as a priority population to address substance use prevention and other BH outcomes). HYA and BCPH partner to address substance use prevention through funding, complimentary programming, and shared goals and outcomes while avoiding duplication of services and programming.

This grant request aims to obtain funding to support the Healthy Youth Alliance (HYA) in an iterative planning and implementation process intended to build local capacity in BOCO to prevent substance misuse through delivering Evidence-based programs (EPBs) and support the community into integrating evidence-based practices and policies in their service delivery models. Through this work, HYA will use a data-driven and community-engagement approach to identify underserved populations and aim to increase prevention services for those populations in a culturally sensitive way.

HYA also received BOCC approval to apply to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Health Disparities Community Grant Program (HDCGP) on January 9, 2024, for funding to support this work further. If funded, the HDCGP grant would support the planning process and focus on building organizational capacity through strategic planning. The SPF-PFS-Communities/Tribes grant will provide additional resources to expand our reach in the assessment and planning phases and provide necessary resources to support implementation and put more funding back into the community for service delivery. The goal of these two grant applications is to focus on prevention efforts aimed at parents, caregivers, and trusted adults, to reduce health disparities related to prevention. HDCGP primarily focuses on planning and building operational

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capacity, whereas the SPF-PFS-Communities/Tribes would provide resources for implementation and evaluation to ensure sustainability. Though there are similarities in the proposals, funding for neither is guaranteed. The project proposed for the SPF-PFS-Communities/Tribes would extend the work proposed in the HDCGP grant by allowing us to focus planning efforts with additional priority populations and provide resources to build community capacity to implement EBPs.

This funding offers a prescriptive process to guide the work, The Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF). The SPF is largely rooted in the shared risk and protective model. The risk and protective factors model approaches prevention by identifying salient risk factors and underrepresented protective factors within a community, then selecting and implementing evidence-based strategies shown to impact those specific factors. The SPF prescribes an iterative five-step process (assessment, capacity, planning, implementation, evaluation) including two overarching guiding principles (cultural competence and sustainability) to offer grantees a strategy for developing a comprehensive approach to addressing substance misuse in the community. In this way, the SPF prioritizes perspectives from individuals with unique cultural backgrounds, values, traditions, and social relationships and lays the foundation for an efficient and adaptive system that maintains results.

In the first year of the grant, HYA would support an assessment phase, identifying local prevention needs based on data such as the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS), Boulder Valley High School Parent Survey (BVHSPS), and program data from years of providing parents, caregivers, and trusted adults with prevention services. As the contracted technical assistance provider for the City of Boulder's Substance Education and Awareness Fund (SEA), HYA is experienced in guiding local prevention efforts and well positioned to do this work. Currently, the SEA Fund only serves the city of Boulder, and one aim of this project would be to replicate aspects of the collective impact framework of the SEA Fund to underserved regions of the county. This would support building capacity in underserved areas through building local resources and readiness to address prevention needs in specific geographic regions (rural/mountain) or with certain populations (Latinx Spanish speaking). Through this proposal, HYA would support a community engagement planning process grounded in existing data and integrating information collected through other reports such as the Behavioral Health Roadmap. In subsequent years, through the implementation phase, HYA would provide financial assistance to community-based organizations, technical assistance, and implementation. HYA would also develop a structured process to evaluate the process and program and measure progress toward achieving specified outcomes.

The state underwent a similar strategic planning process to prioritize prevention and embed it into existing structures, departments, and efforts while aligning community investments, resulting in [Colorado's Statewide Strategic Plan for Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse](#). HYA will seek to align our prevention efforts to the state plan, the BOCO Behavioral Health Roadmap, and other strategic efforts across the county. This grant will increase HYA's alignment with the Behavioral Health Roadmap (BHR), particularly in the area of substance use prevention. Specifically, HYA will address three identified prevention strategies in the BHR:

- Develop a shared community-wide prevention approach that promotes belonging, purpose, mental wellbeing, resilience, protective factors, and addresses risk factors at the individual, family, system, community, and policy level for mental and behavioral health. This prevention approach would be co-created with diverse community and partners and include culturally relevant approaches, community-informed practices, and best practices. It would also build upon existing efforts.
- Provide expanded education and skill-building for adults and caregivers to better support and understand youth and children.
- Expand efforts to prevent childhood trauma or adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and increase protective factors using best practices and grounded in racial and health equity.

In addition, this proposal would support coordination and collaboration between other stakeholders delivering prevention-related services. HYA will help the community to build capacity to implement EBPs known to prevent or reduce substance misuse. HYA will also rebrand as the "Prevention Partnership" and continue providing prevention programming coordination, technical assistance, workforce development, collaboration, and leveraging of funds across BOCO with multiple community partners to address SUD and BH.

Elevating prevention across existing and emerging work in Boulder County is an exciting opportunity to further positive outcomes for all. HYA is a long-standing partner and leader in this work and this funding will allow for coordinated and comprehensive strategies to improve health and wellbeing. While year one is focused on strategic planning, years two through five provide the necessary funding to implement identified strategies and evaluate their effectiveness in addressing SUD, BH, and health disparities.