



Grant County Prevention and Recovery Center Executive Summary of the Community-Level Progress Evaluation Reports

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Executive Summary

Grant County Prevention and Recovery Center is one of eighteen recipients of the Washington State Incentive Grant (SIG). SIG funds are allocated to communities to prevent the use, misuse and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs by Washington State youth. Community grantees are expected to make their local prevention system more effective by establishing prevention partnerships, using a risk and protective factor framework for data driven needs assessments, and by implementing and monitoring science-based prevention programs.

Project Sites

Grant County implemented SIG-funded prevention programs in the four widely dispersed, rural communities of Quincy, Warden, Soap Lake, and Grand Coulee. The economy in Quincy and Warden is agricultural-based. Soap Lake and Grand Coulee depend mostly upon tourism. Grant County Prevention and Recovery Center (PARC) manages the local SIG project out of Moses Lake. Grant County's population grew by 36.3% in the past decade, substantially above the statewide growth of 21.1%.¹ Median household money income is \$32,405 compared to the state median income of \$41,715. The percentage of children living below poverty is 20.6%.

Prevention History

Prior to SIG, few funds were available for prevention. The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA), and the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) provided funds for a county prevention specialist. The Washington State University County Cooperative Extension agent provided educational services countywide, and most communities had a D.A.R.E. (Drug Resistance and Education) program. Quincy is the only city that had active after-school prevention programs before SIG funding was received. Grant County Parks and Recreation was well-versed in the risk and protective factor model, the use of prevention-related data for planning, and the use of science-based programs. However, the individual towns where SIG programs were implemented were relatively new to prevention.

¹ [Http://quickfacts.census.gov/gfd/states/53/53025.html](http://quickfacts.census.gov/gfd/states/53/53025.html), Grant County.

Prevention Programs

Each SIG service provision site planned to implement seven programs. They are categorized by rigor, which is the extent to which the program has been shown, through scientifically defensible research methods, to be effective in different locales, and with multiple populations. The highest rating is rigor 5, the lowest, rigor 1. Five of the substance abuse prevention programs that Grant County selected were higher level rigor programs: two rigor 5 programs, Life Skills and Preparing for Drug Free Years, and three rigor 4 programs, Smart Moves, All Stars, and Reconnecting Youth. In addition, they selected two rigor 1 programs, Saturday Night and an After School Enhancement Program. Grant County PARC collaborated with the local school districts to implement these programs.

Progress toward SIG Community Level Objectives

Objective 1: *To establish partnerships...to collaborate at the local level to prevent alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drug use, misuse, and abuse by youth.*

Funds from the SIG grant gave the Prevention and Recovery Center the opportunity to partner with local school districts, Grant County Cooperative Extension, the Education Service District, local police departments and the Boys and Girls Club. In Soap Lake, the Mother Theresa Mc-Kay Youth Outreach and Wellness Center is partnering with a wide range of community agencies in Moses Lake and Ephrata to provide information and services to the youth at the center.

Objective 2: *To use a risk and protective factor framework to develop a community prevention action plan...*

and

Objective 3: *To participate in joint community risk and protective factor and resource assessment...*

Grant County Prevention and Recovery Center has been using a risk and protective factor framework in planning for prevention programs for several years. It acted as the lead in the spring 2001 pilot test of the SIG-sponsored collaborative needs assessment, bringing together multiple prevention partners to conduct a data driven assessment of county prevention needs.

Objective 4: *To select and implement effective prevention actions...*

Each Grant County SIG community planned to feature seven best practice programs. These programs are categorized by rigor based on the extent to which a program has been shown, through scientifically defensible research methods, to be effective in different locales, and with multiple populations. The highest rating is rigor 5, the lowest, rigor 1. Five of the substance abuse prevention programs selected by Grant County were higher level rigor programs: two rigor five programs, Life Skills and Preparing for Drug Free Years, and three rigor four programs, Smart Moves, All Stars, and Reconnecting Youth. Two rigor one

programs, Saturday Night and an After-school Enhancement were used to supplement the other programs and to serve as means to attract youth into the prevention programs.

This past year Grand Coulee and Coulee City had an After School or a Summer Program. Quincy, Warden and Soap Lake had one of more sessions of the following six programs: After School, All Stars, Friday or Saturday Night, Life Skills, Smart Moves and Summer Program.

Most participants took a pre- and post-test, but due to data-entry problems with the Everest system, no reports were available at the time of data collection.

***Objective 5:** To use common reporting tools...*

A requirement of SIG is that the Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors be administered in participating schools. Grant County schools participated in the Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior in 1998. Prior needs assessments were based on data from the DSHS County Profile and other archival sources. Grand Coulee and Soap Lake participated in the student survey due to the SIG requirements. Quincy and Warden participated due to requirements of another project.

Conclusion

Overall, the Grant County SIG project has improved the quality and the comprehensiveness of the county's prevention system. Major achievements include the initial and continuing administration of the Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior in Grant County schools, the introduction of science-based programs, and the opening of the youth outreach center in Soap Lake. During the last year of SIG community funding, the prevention community intends to institutionalize some of the changes in the system of prevention planning, funding, implementation, and monitoring developed while participating in SIG.



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