

Overview of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)

Multiple community grant projects utilize the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). SPF details how coalitions can craft environmental strategies tailored to each community's characteristics. SPF assists community coalitions in developing the infrastructure needed for community-based, public health approaches that can lead to effective, outcome-based, and sustainable community change. The SPF process is successful when the group ensures that all members are heard and share equal responsibilities. The five elements of the SPF process are:

1. **Assessment:** Collect data to define problems, resources, and readiness within a geographic area to address needs and gaps.
2. **Capacity:** Mobilize and/or build capacity within a geographic area to address needs.
3. **Planning:** Develop a comprehensive strategic approach that includes policies, programs, and practices creating a logical, data-driven plan to address problems identified in the assessment.
4. **Implementation:** Implement evidence-based prevention strategies, programs, policies and practices.
5. **Evaluation:** Measure the impact of the SPF and the implementation of strategies, programs, policies and practices.

The elements of sustainability and cultural competence (central to community-based approaches) are in the center of SPF, as these should be incorporated in all other elements of the SPF process.



The environmental strategies approach recognizes that risks associated with substance use are, in part, a function of the interplay between the environments where youth use and the substances he/she uses (agent). In the environmental approach, place matters. The ability to shape an individual's behavior by structuring what is expected or permitted in specific environments can reduce alcohol and other drug-related problems.