



## **Understanding the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)**

The Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) is a five-step plan that a community group uses to create substance abuse prevention activities.

**Step 1. ASSESSMENT** – *Discover what your community needs:*

- *WHAT is the greatest substance abuse problem, and WHAT do you know about WHY it is happening?*
- *WHERE is the problem taking place?*
- *WHAT group of people is the problem affecting the most?*
- *HOW can we deal with the problem and bring about a change?*
- *Is our community READY to do something about it?*

**Step 2. CAPACITY BUILDING** – *Find what you need to meet the substance abuse problem:*

- *Who are the people in your community whose help you need? Are they willing and capable of leading or carrying out the plan?*
- *Get everyone “on the same page” about why the problem needs attention and what to do about it.*
- *How much money is needed to carry out the plan, and where do we get the funds?*
- *What other resources will be needed, and how do we get them?*

**Step 3. PLANNING** – *Develop a detailed plan that will focus on:*

- *The best way(s) to tackle the problem that was discovered in Step 1 by working on a piece of the problem that you can change.*
- *The purpose of this project, and what you want the result to be.*
- *How the community will be changed by this project.*

**Step 4. IMPLEMENTATION** – *Carefully manage the plan created in Step 3:*

- *Do it.*
- *Track it.*
- *Record it.*

**Step 5. EVALUATION** – *Review information gathered in Step 4, and decide how well the plan worked:*

- *What has this plan shown us? What else do we need to know?*
- *Keep doing the activities that worked.*
- *Change or replace the activities that did not work.*

### **THROUGHOUT ALL 5 STEPS, REMEMBER...**

1. There are many ways to view the world; so make sure that the plan values, respects, and accepts the differences of all people in the community.
2. Plan for long-term maintenance of people and efforts.

*This document is adapted from SAMHSA’s Strategic Prevention Framework that can be downloaded from:*  
<http://captus.samhsa.gov/prevention-practice/strategic-prevention-framework>