

# Oak Park and River Forest Workgroup for Positive Youth Development Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnership for Success Grant (SPF-PFS)

Executive Profile 2014-2019

**Coalition:** Workgroup for Positive Youth Development (+PYD)

**Grantee:** Oak Park Township

**Service Area:** Oak Park and River Forest, Illinois

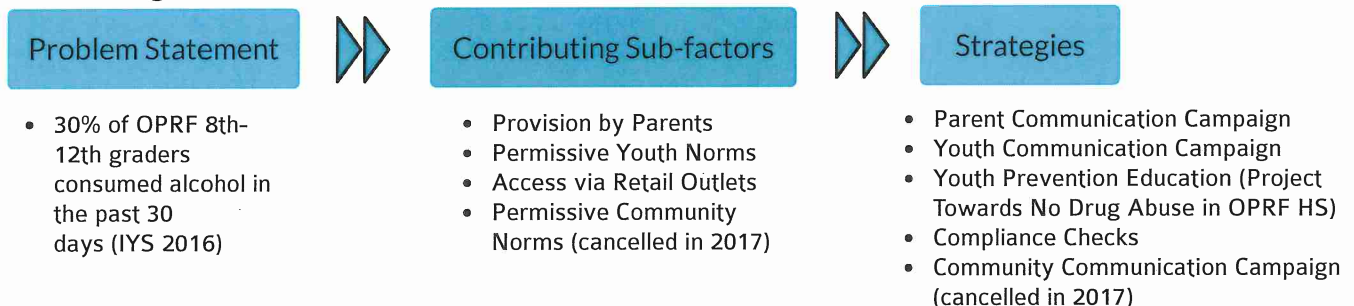


+PYD is a group of community stakeholders from 12 identified sectors in Oak Park and River Forest with an influence over policy, education, and cultural climate (local law enforcement, media, government, school administration, faith based organizations, youth serving, parents, and healthcare providers). Oak Park and River Forest are urban communities located 9 miles west of downtown Chicago with approximately 64,000 residents. Oak Park is 69% White, 20% Black, 8% Hispanic, while River Forest is 82% White, 7% Black, 7% Asian residents. They share one high school (OPRF) of approximately 3,400 students and the community values its diverse and socioeconomic makeup. Oak Park has two public middle schools and River Forest has one. The coalition has 40 members which meet a minimum of four times a year, and has several working committees: a Data Team, School Committee, and two Co-chairs. In 2016, the coalition adopted a mission statement to support youth in Oak Park and River Forest in making healthy choices to lead alcohol and drug free lives.

## 1 Assessment

In 2015, Oak Park and River Forest received the SPF-PFS grant through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The grant is administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). The community received the grant because underage drinking rates were higher than the state average as reported by the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS). In 2018, 30% of Oak Park and River Forest 8th–12th graders consumed alcohol in the past 30 days, resulting in citations for possession of alcohol by a minor and school discipline action. The qualitative and quantitative data gathered in 2016 by the coalition identified 11th and 12th grade 30-day drinking rates as the most concerning. While 8th and 10th grade percentages fell in 2016, 30-day underage drinking rates of Oak Park and River Forest 12th graders increased from 10th to 12th grade at rates over 10% above that of their state peers. For the next two years the coalition conducted key informant interviews, surveys, environmental scans, and a community assessment to determine next steps and best practices to address this problem. This eventually led to the development of a Logic model which identified local contributing sub-factors and evidence-based strategies needed to address underage drinking.

### SPF-PFS Logic Model





## 2 Capacity Building



In 2015, a full-time coordinator was hired to manage the grant responsibilities of recruiting and maintaining a multi-sector coalition. Staff turnover eventually led to a longtime parent volunteer with experience in prevention transitioning into the coordinator role as a Township employee. Prevention First (PF) supported startup with a comprehensive capacity building training plan in addition to ongoing monthly technical assistance meetings. +PYD cultivates partnerships by offering professional development opportunities through member organizations, regular coalition updates, and various subcommittee meetings. Organizing and participating in community educational events and using social media has also proven to help with engagement, retention, outreach, and membership. The coalition takes every opportunity to highlight the benefits of using the IYS data not only to the schools but the community as a whole. In 2019, the coalition created bylaws and a membership agreement to formalize structure.

## 3 Strategic Planning



Parent & Youth  
Communication  
Campaigns

Youth  
Prevention  
Education

Compliance  
Checks

In order to effectively address the four identified contributing factors to underage drinking in Oak Park and River Forest, the coalition created strategy action plans for each identified contributing sub-factor. In early 2017, the SPF Coordinator provided information and training on the SPF process. PF standards were followed to maintain the fidelity and the integrity of the evidence based strategies. The goals of the SPF-PFS Project are:

- Decrease underage drinking (past 30-day alcohol use) among 8th-12th grade youth by IYS 2018 (baseline year 2014).
- Impact one or more risk/protective factors related to underage drinking among 8th-12th grade youth by IYS 2018 (baseline year 2014). In Oak Park and River Forest the specific protective factors addressed were; provision by parents, access via retail outlets, and permissive youth norms.

## 4 Implementation



In order to implement the SPF process effectively and to measure outcomes, the coalition coordinator received monthly technical assistance and in-person training from PF and the Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD). In Fall 2017, the Parent and Youth Communication campaigns launched. Primary messages were distributed every 6 weeks to the target audience through postcards, banners, and newsletters. Materials and images were selected based on qualitative research methods and approved by IDHS, CPRD, and PF. Biannual strategy action plans are submitted to address community change and relevancy as the community progresses through the SPF-PFS process. *Project Towards No Drug Abuse*, the youth prevention education (YPE) program reaches all 9th grade health classes. Law enforcement officials were trained, and Compliance Checks were conducted for over 70% of Oak Park and 100% of River Forest liquor license holders in Spring 2018. Ensuring the sustainability of the data driven process recruitment for schools, IYS recruitment is ongoing, as they have direct access to the target population. CPRD also provided technical support and evaluation of IYS results.



## Timeline

2010-2015	2015-2017	2016-2017	2018	2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-OPRF HS discusses 2010 IYS</li> <li>-Parents start coalition with community leaders (IMPACT)</li> <li>-IMPACT focus on high school policy &amp; drug education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Staff hired</li> <li>-SPF-PFS Grant</li> <li>-Outreach</li> <li>-Capacity building</li> <li>-2016 IYS</li> <li>-HS hires Social Worker</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessment report completed</li> <li>- Action Plans developed</li> <li>- Co-chairs recruited</li> <li>- Committees established</li> <li>- +PYD logo adopted</li> <li>- Community Survey completed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-YPE implemented</li> <li>-Compliance Checks</li> <li>-Law Enforcement training</li> <li>-Parent &amp; Youth Campaigns</li> <li>- Stall Street Journal</li> <li>- Presence at community events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continue implementation of approved strategies</li> <li>-Parent Communication Campaign</li> <li>-Youth Communication Campaigns</li> <li>-Compliance Checks</li> <li>-Youth Prevention Education</li> <li>-New Coalition Members</li> <li>-New Youth Council</li> </ul>

### 5 Evaluation



The 2018 IYS data shows that 27% of OPRF 8th-12th graders consumed alcohol in the past 30 days compared to 30% in 2016. We are making a difference!

The IYS, conducted every other year will continue to be our primary data source to evaluate the efficacy of the coalition efforts and selected strategies. Outcomes will also be measured by surveys, environmental scans, adjudication data, and key informant interviews. Feedback provided by the coalition members will provide direction and relevancy, while the coordinator ensures that PF standards are being met.

### 6 Sustainability

Sustainability discussions started in 2018, and in early 2019 the coalition agreed to seek additional funding through outside sources. Oak Park Township received a \$10,000 grant in 2018 to address youth marijuana use through communication campaigns. In 2019, IDHS granted a no-cost extension to continue implementing the approved strategies; parent and youth communication campaigns, YPE, and compliance checks to reduce underage drinking. The YPE program has been rolled into the health curriculum at OPRF. The coalition is looking at other ways to successfully increase membership retention and sharing of costs.

### 7 Cultural Competence

In April of 2018, the coalition learned that the community had been identified as having a high risk sub- population of Latino/Latina's. A Health Disparity statement was adopted in November of 2016, and engaging a diverse membership and creating culturally appropriate campaign materials became a priority. The coordinator attended a CLAS standards training and the CLAS standards are reviewed by the co-chairs. Providing access and engaging those identified by the data is addressed in the prevention efforts.



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Visit [www.oakparktownship.org/PYD](http://www.oakparktownship.org/PYD) for more information about Positive Youth Development or email [koconnor@oakparktownship.org](mailto:koconnor@oakparktownship.org)