

THE CORE COMPONENTS OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZING FOR PREVENTION

It takes a village. It takes careful planning. It takes people, resources, and structure. These key principles are foundational to success in community organizing for prevention.

Broaden the Power Base



Those in formal and informal positions of power actively work together to build authentic relationships, embrace diverse perspectives, take account for historical harms, and work toward repair, leading to shared power in decision-making and community ownership of local prevention efforts.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Power exists in all of us, and we all hold different types of power. Understanding what power bases we hold allows us to understand how various types of power can complement or create discord within a community organizing effort.

A highly collaborative coalition that incorporates diverse community members and agencies and prioritizes community-centered prevention science approaches.

Organized Community



WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

When coalitions are robust and effective, they are well positioned to adopt a prevention science approach to community organizing, which can lead to the transformation of the community's prevention system and positive long-term impacts.



Activated Community

A committed and representative group of people who can be called upon to focus their skills toward a specific community change effort.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Focused efforts are critical to mobilizing strategic actions leading to specific changes.

The emergence of new community structures, social forces, and mindsets that shift the conditions holding a problem in place.



Systems Change

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Changing the environments where people live, work, and play is one of the most sustainable approaches with broad reach in communities. This is one vital component of comprehensive prevention approaches.

Collective Impact*

Diverse and committed individuals and agencies in a community who take a comprehensive and systematic approach to address the root causes of complex local challenges.



WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Taking a comprehensive and systematic approach to community collaboration contributes to more meaningful and impactful community solutions.

*Not applicable for Option B grantees

Implementation Support



Tailored and consistent coaching and technical assistance for communities can support the implementation of equitable prevention efforts.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

A state-level system of support exists that should increase access to guidance, expertise, and resources to help advance equitable prevention efforts.

