Overview: The Michigan Department of Community Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse and Addiction Services, has been awarded a three-year grant (October 2012 through September 2015) to address two of the nation’s top substance abuse prevention priorities: 1) underage drinking among persons ages 12 to 20, and 2) prescription drug misuse and abuse among persons ages 12 to 25. Michigan was one of 26 states to apply, and one of 16 to receive $3.5 million (about $1.2 million per year).

The SPF-PFS II grant will allow Michigan to continue building capacity in 10 communities of high need by implementing comprehensive and data-driven substance abuse prevention strategies. These strategies are to: 1) prevent the onset and reduce the progression of substance abuse, 2) reduce substance abuse-related problems, 3) strengthen prevention capacity/infrastructure at the state and community level, and 4) leverage, redirect, and align statewide funding streams and resources for prevention.

The overall objective of Michigan’s SPF-PFS II project will serve to strengthen and expand upon the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF). The SPF is a five-step, data-driven planning process that serves to enhance community-level prevention infrastructure. While the implementation of the SPF framework has been underway in Michigan for nearly 10 years, the enhanced infrastructure will help to continue to foster change in the targeted communities that are underserved, and in high need of evidence-based programs to address underage drinking and prescription drug misuse and abuse among noted age groups.

The targeted communities are the counties of Lake, Clare, Baraga, Roscommon, Gladwin, Luce, Genesee, Saginaw, Muskegon, and Wayne (including the City of Detroit). The SPF-PFS II will also work with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. The corresponding regional substance abuse coordinating agency for each of these counties or jurisdictions is the identified subrecipient community for this grant.

Based on the determined needs in the community, coalitions in each county or jurisdiction will select one of two approved evidence-based programs, either Communities that Care or Community Trials, to strengthen collaborative partnerships with federally qualified health centers, local public health departments, Indian Health Services, and community college and university health and/or counseling centers. These partners will assist in identifying and referring appropriate individuals and families to participate in one of two evidence-based programs: Strengthening Families or Active Parenting for Teens: Families in Action.

The National Outcome Measures that will be monitored are: 1) past 30-day use of alcohol, 2) past 30-day use of prescription drug misuse and abuse, and 3) family communication around drug use.