

# Changes at Prevention Network

## **Note new info about grants**

We are grateful to be starting the new year with a signed contract with the state Office of Drug Control Policy, our funder since 1984, and continued funding from the Office of Highway Safety Planning.

## **The contract involves changes, however, which you should know about.**

First, there is a significant cut in funding. As a result, staff time is reduced. All of the staffmembers are still here, but paid for fewer hours. Our priority remains being in the field, working directly with community groups, so when you call the office, you may not immediately reach the person you need. Please bear with us.

Second, we are in a new office. We had shared space with Michigan Resource Center, which closed its doors when their state contract was not renewed, and we needed to cut rent as well. If you attend meetings at PN, need to drop something off, or just want to check on our existence, get the new directions to us from 800-968-4968 or visit [www.preventio.network.org](http://www.preventio.network.org). Our toll free number, fax number, mailing address (P.O. Box), and e-mail addresses remain the same.

Third, and sadly, for financial reasons we did not hold the annual Model Awards Lunch this past December. Nor have we identified model grant-funded projects, some of which might not be fundable through our modified grants program. And this is the final change we should tell you about.

## **Grants Program in 2008**

Our total funding for grants is slightly increased—and should be adequate to meet demands—but there are now just two ATOD prevention grants, and the maximum award for either is \$2500. The application is revised, and is the same application for either Underage Drinking Prevention Grants (UDP), supported by OHSP, or Prevention on Purpose Grants (POP), funded through ODCP.

The revised application reflects a state emphasis on a strategic planning process and on the state priorities of reducing alcohol related traffic deaths and underage drinking. Grants can support projects that address these priorities, or priorities identified by your regional substance abuse coordinating agency, or priorities you arrive at locally through some form of assessment.

Notwithstanding the changes, and keeping in mind the state emphasis, we believe grants will continue to support what you want to do in your community while helping achieve this through purposeful planning of effective prevention. What's more, a significant addition to the grants program is that funds may now be used not only to implement strategies and foster community readiness, but also to carry out the steps in a strategic prevention planning process.

The revised grant application walks people through the strategic planning steps we have always encouraged and assisted them to take: assess your primary problem or need; design strategies specifically to address these problems/needs; engage necessary partners, get training, and take other measures to create readiness; articulate your goals within a longer term prevention plan [create projects which lead to next steps]; and use practical means to evaluate if you are reaching goals.

There's nothing new about this process, which we have been calling "prevention on purpose." We are confident that all community groups we work with can engage in the process and most of the projects you want to carry out can be described for grant funding.

For training, assistance, or the new grant application, call 800-968-4968.

### **PN and SPF/SIG**

CSAP and ODCP call purposeful prevention planning a "strategic prevention framework" (SPF). SPF is the basis for all federally funded prevention at this time, and ODCP is administering a state incentive grant (SIG) received to institutionalize SPF in Michigan.

SPF/SIG activity at the state level over the past two years has been described in *Network News*. PN staff and several board members participate on the state advisory committee for this initiative and on its work groups, such as epidemiology.

Now in its third year SPF/SIG is "rolling out" to regional levels. The regional substance abuse coordinating agencies are convening Community Strategic Prevention Planning Collaboratives (CSPPCs) to address the state priorities [alcohol related crash deaths and underage drinking] in their areas. They will be identifying factors which contribute to these problems regionally, and through data analysis and other assessment, may also choose additional regional priorities.

Prevention Network expects to work closely with coordinating agencies and CSPPCs through SPF/SIG. There is much for all of us to learn in the process. We will also be working with many providers and community coalitions who will be closely engaged in their local SPF/SIG activity and CSPPCs.

Since the purpose of SPF is to foster more effective prevention, we are proud of the special role we will play with volunteer community groups—citizens engaged in prevention—to enlist them in support of regionally planned initiatives, and to assist them in taking careful planning steps and carrying out effective strategies to reach their own prevention goals. In short, our job is to engage more people, and help them participate more effectively, so Michigan confronts substance abuse related problems with a synergy of state, local, professional, and volunteer prevention activity.