The Department of Commerce builds community capacity and supports local mobilizing efforts to reduce substance abuse and violence in Washington’s communities.

**Adams** – Community Counseling Services  
**Asotin** – Asotin County Prevention Pays  
**Benton/Franklin** – Benton-Franklin Substance Abuse Coalition  
**Chelan/Douglas** – TOGETHER! for Drug-Free Youth  
**Clallam** – Clallam County Sheriff’s Office  
**Clark** – Department of Community Services  
**Columbia/Walla Walla** – Blue Mountain Counseling  
**Cowlitz** – Cowlitz Substance Abuse Coalition  
**Ferry** – Ferry County Community Mobilization  
**Garfield** – Pomeroy School District 110  
**Grant** – Grant County Prevention and Recovery Center  
**Grays Harbor** – Grays Harbor Public Health & Social Services  
**Jefferson** – Jefferson County Community Network  
**King** – King County Community Organizing Program  
**Kitsap** – Kitsap County Prevention Services  
**Kittitas** – Kittitas County Community Network  
**Klickitat** – Klickitat County Health Department  
**Lewis** – Lewis County Social Services  
**Lincoln** – Lincoln County Alcohol/Drug Center  
**Okanogan** – Okanogan Behavioral HealthCare  
**Pacific** – Well Spring Community Network  
**Pend Oreille** – Pend Oreille County Counseling Services  
**Pierce** – Safe Streets Campaign  
**San Juan** – San Juan County Health and Community Services  
**Skagit/Island** – Skagit Prevention Council  
**Skamania** – Skamania County Community Health  
**Snohomish** – Snohomish County Community Mobilization  
**Spokane** – Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council  
**Stevens** – Stevens County Substance Abuse Coalition  
**Thurston/Mason** – TOGETHER!  
**Wahkiakum** – Wahkiakum Community Network  
**Whatcom** – Whatcom Family & Community Network  
**Whitman** – Palouse River Counseling  
**Yakima** – Educational Service District 105

### Community Mobilization Against Substance Abuse and Violence

**Organizing communities to reduce substance abuse and violence**

**Contact**
Ramona Leber, Program Manager  
Community Mobilization Program  
Phone: (360) 725-3033  
ramona.leber@commerce.wa.gov

The Community Mobilization Program was founded in 1989 through the passage of the Drug Omnibus Act (RCW 43.270).

“The legislature...recognizes that the most effective strategy for reducing the impact of alcohol, tobacco, other drug abuse, and violence is through the collaborative efforts of educators, law enforcement, local government officials, local treatment providers, and concerned community and citizens’ groups.” (RCW 43.270.010)
In just the last six years alone Community Mobilization (CM) provided over 500,000 hours of drug and violence programming to reduce substance abuse and violence to over 1.4 million youth and adults.

Programs are locally selected based on local data and the best strategy to address the risk and protective factors that have been identified by each community.

Examples of programs provided are Life Skills Training, Guiding Good Choices, Meth Awareness, Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness, Second Steps, Safe Policy, Strengthening Families, gang prevention, Ropes courses, Los Niño’s Bien Educados, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Teen Mentoring, Project Northland and Social Norms to reduce underage drinking.

**Community Mobilization Makes a Difference:**

*Communities That Care (CTC)* significantly prevents youth initiation of cigarette smoking (33% less likely to smoke), alcohol use (32% less likely to start drinking), and delinquency (24% less likely to start engaging in delinquency) and is estimated to generate $5.30 in cost savings per dollar invested – an estimated **$85M saved** through CM/CTC efforts since 2005. *(Prevention Science 2011)*

*The Strengthening Families Program (SFP),* a research-based program rated nationally as a best practice program was provided in 19 counties.

- SFP has demonstrated an $8 reduction in future social cost for every $1 invested in providing the program.
- SFP participants showed a positive change on post-test results on all measures of risk and protective factors for parenting.

*Pre-test/post-test surveys of participants in community-focused activities in King County showed statistically significant improvement in neighborhood involvement and neighborhood attachment scores.

Local policy boards in each county work together to **mobilize community efforts** to reduce substance abuse and violence using Communities That Care (CTC), a nationally validated, research-based system for mobilizing communities that has demonstrated successful, long-term results in reducing negative behaviors in youth.

The policy boards **review local and statewide indicator data** that is linked to risk and protective factors by CTC research. Policy boards **determine which of the risk factors are most prevalent in their communities** as a basis for targeting their efforts.

Local Community Mobilization coalitions **work with families, schools, law enforcement, local government representatives, treatment providers, youth, and community organizations** to reduce the risks for substance abuse and violence and to buffer (protect against) the impact of exposure to risk.

Using the Social Development Strategy, positive, **caring adults create resilience in youth** by providing them with meaningful opportunities to participate in their communities, master new skills, and be recognized for their efforts.