

Sustainability Plan



Introduction

“The key element of sustainability is providing continued benefits, regardless of particular activities delivered or the format in which they are delivered.”
–Mancini & Marek (2002). There are four clarifying questions that need to be answered in order for sustainability planning to move forward:

- What are you trying to sustain? (put another way, What needs to be sustained?)
- Public Value: What evidence do you have that what you are doing is worth sustaining? (put another way, Why does this initiative deserve to be sustained?)
- Authorizing Environment: What institutional supports, structures, and/or policies need to be in place to achieve sustainability?
- Operational Capacity: What capacity is necessary to sustain this effort and where will that capacity come from?

Before these questions can be answered, it is essential and important that you identify the key players and consider your authorizing environment (Moore, 1995).

Building the Sustainability Team

Who are the individuals in your agency, organization, coalition or community that need to be involved in conversations about sustainability? Please do not list your entire rosters. Be purposeful and intentional about the individuals who need to be at the table to discuss sustainability. This group must be big enough to be inclusive but small enough to move forward quickly. Please also consider individuals from outside your agency, organization, coalition or community that could play a role in sustaining the work of your SPF-PFS initiative (however you define it) in your community.

Sustainability Team



- The membership roster was revised during the fall of 2023 to be more reflective of the program's needs, to identify inclusion gaps, and to reconfigure the group to a more manageable size. Membership includes youth, parents, businesses, media, schools, youth serving organizations, religious organizations, law enforcement, civic/volunteer groups, healthcare organizations, local government agencies, and other organization involved in reducing substance abuse.
- Reviewed 12 Sectors Membership at the January 2024 Coalition Meeting to look for gaps in representation and as a result have extended invitations to the director of Life Wise, the youth program coordinator connected to the AC Court System, and 2 representatives of the AC Children's Services Organization.

12 Sectors

Youth, Parent, Business, Media, School, Youth serving organization, Religious or Fraternal Organization, Law Enforcement (not retired), Civic/Volunteer Groups, Healthcare Professional or Organization, State, Local, or Tribal Gov't Agency with Expertise in Substance Abuse, Other Organization Involved in Reducing Substance Abuse.

Sustainability Question # 1: What are you trying to sustain?

The ACYPC (Adams County Youth Prevention Coalition) is trying to sustain best practice prevention in youth underage drinking, tobacco cessation, and prescription drug misuse.

1. The ACYPC is seeking additional funding through a DFC grant application due in April 2024 to continue our prevention work to address underage drinking and tobacco cessation.
 - Contract with a grant writer
 - Gather data for grant application
 - Complete job descriptions
 - Build budget
 - We have Identified 2 prevention substances issues-according to recent OHYES! Data: underage drinking and tobacco.
 - Complete DFC application by April 2024
 - Successful grant funding
2. The Coalition will continue to use the OHYES! data to drive the program decisions.
3. ACYPC is building stronger long-term relationships with the following organizations:
 - Adams County Court System
 - Drug-free Adams County Coalition
 - Adams County Health & Wellness Coalition
 - OVLSD (Ohio Valley Local School District)
 - MLSD (Manchester Local School District)
 - Adams County Health Department
 - Adams County Sheriff's Office Bootcamp
 - Adams County Christian School
 - Adams County Children's Home
 - Adams County Job Family & Services
 - Shawnee Mental Health
 - University of Cincinnati Psychiatric Department

Outcomes

"...to sustain best practice prevention in youth underage drinking, tobacco cessation, and prescription drug misuse."

- Youth will report more frequent communications with their parents about the risks of underage drinking and tobacco usage.
- Increase family communications around alcohol, tobacco, and parental disapproval of underage drinking.
- Increase the number of students who report that their parents talk with them about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol and drug use as measured by the OHYES! data.
- Youth in grades 7th through 12th will report a decrease in 30 day use of alcohol in Adams County as measured by the OHYES! survey.
- Educating youth on the harmful effects of underage drinking and tobacco.



Sustainability Question #2: Public Value - What evidence do you have that what you are doing is worth sustaining?



- In working with our local public health department and school districts to collect data through community surveys, we have found that prevention efforts have a positive impact on the health of our youth. Our data collection efforts and review are showing that success. There has been a significant amount of community buy-in of these prevention efforts and the sustainability of this work is important in keeping community partners, community members, and youth engaged in these efforts. While our data collection shows success in prevention efforts, the need for enhancing these efforts remains great.
- Our student surveys show that our student's mental health and substance use rates were above the state & national average in many areas. 25.06% of students in Adams County who completed the OHYES! survey reported having mental health that warranted further exploration from a mental health professional compared to the state average of 23.10%. Additionally, 17.22% of Adams County students had seriously considered attempting suicide during the past year compared to the state average of 13.98%. This data alone, showing the need for this work, is evidence of the importance of prevention program sustainability.

What evidence do you have that what you are doing is worth sustaining?

Community Impact

- Both school districts, Ohio Valley Local and Manchester, have participated in the OHYES! data collection. This participation ensures strong data collection as evidenced by student participation.
- The Data Community Grant transformed into the Adams County Youth Prevention Coalition in order to create greater presence and visibility in the county. This change allowed for continued growth in membership and increased program capacity, which in turn, built a stronger prevention system.
- SAMHSA's "Talk. They Hear You."® materials and messaging are being distributed to parents and the community through the use of social media platforms like Facebook.

Community Value

- Offered prevention programs to address underage drinking, tobacco cessation, and prescription drug misuse.
- Offered "Talk. They Hear You."® through social media and educational materials to increase parental and community knowledge of how to identify issues to talk with their children.

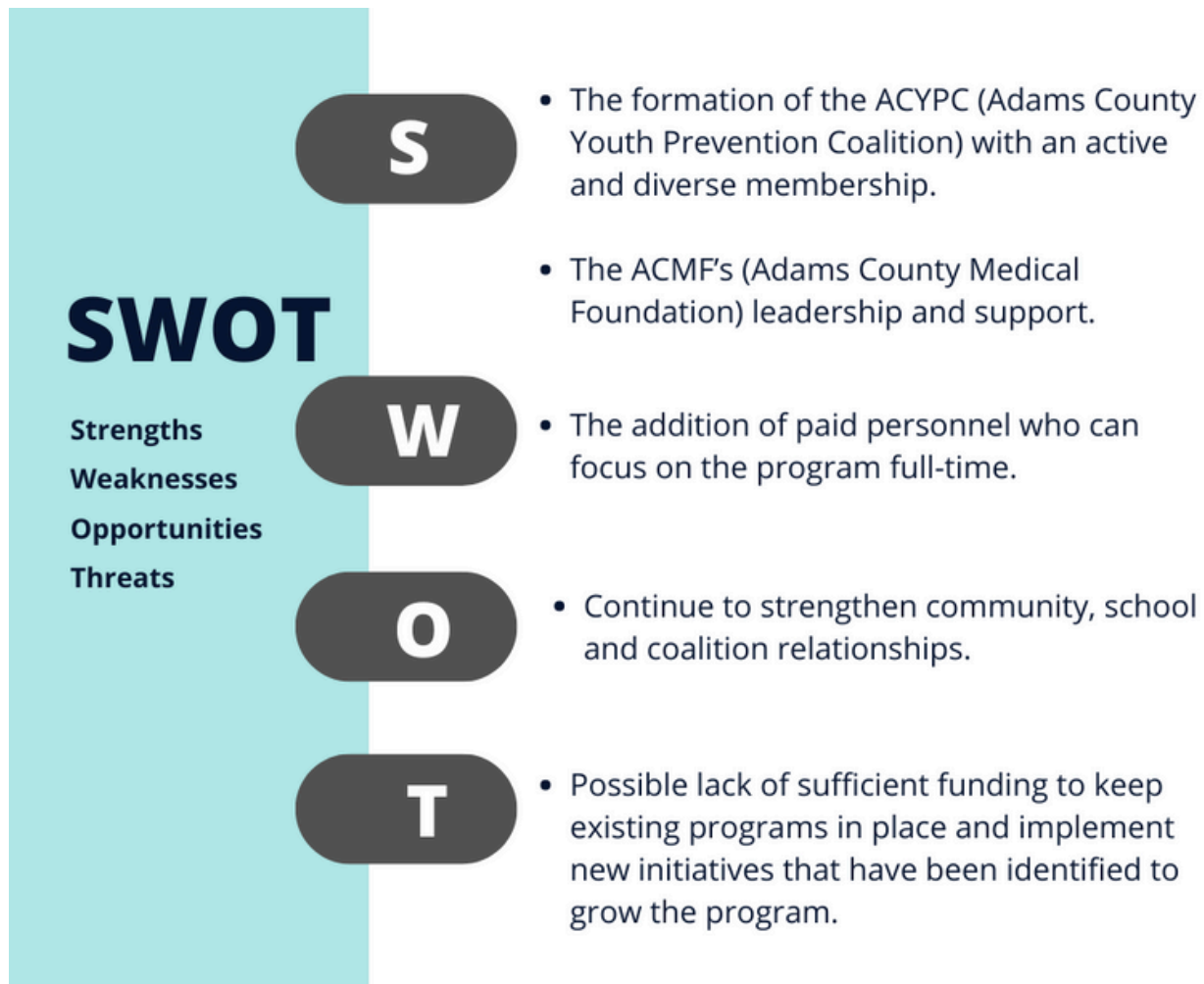
Leadership Value

- Utilizing OHYES! has built data resources and infrastructure that didn't exist prior to the grant.
- Enhances partnerships within the community.
- Incorporated "SPF" capacity experience into the Foundation and the Coalition.

Sustainability Question #3: Authorizing Environment - What institutional supports, structures, and/or policies need to be in place to achieve sustainability?

It may be helpful to frame your answer using the four SWOT elements:

- **Strengths** - What current institutional supports, structures, and/or policies support your SPF-PFS initiative (however you define it)?
- **Weaknesses** - Of these structures, which could be strengthened to ensure sustainability of the SPF-PFS initiative (however you define it)?
- **Opportunities** - Which structures are still needed to ensure sustaining your SPF-PFS initiative (however you define it)?
- **Threats** - What structures are blocking or obstructing your SPF-PFS initiative (however you define it)?



SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

- Strong Coalition volunteers (background, experience, and dedication)
- Several individuals are in the process of receiving prevention credentials
- The leadership from the ACMF
- Diversity of the Coalition's membership
- Active Youth-led Coalition established
- Collaborations with other Adams County Coalitions
- Capacity established through the SPF process
- Engagement of prevention credentialed individuals

Weaknesses

- Low level of community awareness about underage drinking and tobacco cessation
- Lack of paid staff
- Reliance of volunteers
- ACMF isn't a full-time prevention organization
- Few individuals with prevention credentialing
- Few members in the Youth-led Coalition

Opportunities

- Grow prevention credentialed staff
- Increase community awareness and readiness of underage drinking, tobacco cessation, and prescription drug misuse
- Strengthen collaborations with organizations working with prevention programs
- Grow Youth-led Coalition implementing the Dover Youth-to-Youth program

Threats

- Parents don't realize the threats to their children related to underage drinking, tobacco, and prescription drug misuse
- Overall lack of knowledge of the issues
- Kids' access to social media; alcohol, tobacco, and prescription drugs
- Local Politics
- Youth Peer pressure

Sustainability Question #4: Operational Capacity - What capacity is necessary to sustain this effort and where will that capacity come from to sustain your SPF-PFS initiative?

Strengths

What operational capacity has your agency, organization, coalition, or community built through networks during this grant opportunity?

- The ACMF, under the SPF-PFS grant has spent the last seven years building operational capacity. The coalition has worked towards building strong coalition membership and has utilized results from the OHYES! and the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) to implement data-driven initiatives such as SAMHSA's "Talk. They Hear You."® campaign.

What internal operational capacity has your agency, organization, coalition or community built through this grant opportunity?

- The Adams County Medical Foundation and the Adams County Youth Prevention Coalition have attended numerous prevention training programs and conferences and has presented at two national prevention conferences. Our partnerships have grown outside our county and include Ohio University, the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service; Dr. Robert Vincent, Director of SAMHSA; Lawrence County; Prevention FIRST!; and Interact for Health.

What current skills or expertise does your initiative rely on to sustain your initiative's positive outcomes?

- Current initiative relies on the expertise of prevention consultants/specialists, grant writers, public health experts, and mental health and substance use experts. In addition, the need for continued use of peer-to-peer programs and community buy-in are key to the success and sustainability of the initiative.

What current resources are necessary to sustain your SPF-PFS initiative?

- The OHYES! Survey, along with SAMHSA educational materials and resources, shared resources among Adams County's agencies and organizations, ongoing community involvement, leadership support from the ACMF, and financial backing for a prevention specialist and a program manager, have all contributed to the program's success and are necessary to sustain the SPF-PFS initiative.

Opportunities



Of these skills and expertise, which could be strengthened to ensure sustained positive outcomes?

- More prevention staff needed within the county.

How will the increased internal capacity contribute to the sustainability of your SPF-PFS efforts?

- The increased capacity grants us the ability to further educate and inform the local schools, community, and local courts regarding the coalition's prevention efforts to reduce substance misuse of alcohol, tobacco, and prescription medications. Our social media campaigns using "Talk. They Hear You."® helps build our online presence which, in turn, helps the community view us as a trustworthy source of information where prevention is concerned

Which skills and expertise are still needed to sustain positive outcomes?

- More prevention training in general, more training in general for the coalition and more credentialed staff
- Subject Matter Experts are needed in the fields of public health, mental health, substance use disorder, and education.
- Community building is needed to build engagement and community buy-in.

How will these networks contribute to the sustainability of your agency, organization, coalition, or community's SPF-PFS efforts?

- These networks will be an important part of the sustainability plan of this coalition, as they will be able to offer resources, valuable insight and opinions in strategic planning, as well as create a larger network of community collaboration.

Weaknesses

Of the resources listed above which are insufficient?

'Financial funding may be the most insufficient after September 2024.'

Threats

Of the resources listed, which are vulnerable?

Financial funding is the most vulnerable.

SWOT

STRENGTHS



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Relationships:

- Adams County Court
- Drug Free Adams County Coalition
- Health and Wellness Coalition
- Ohio Valley School District
- Manchester Local School District
- Adams County Health Department
- Adams Sheriff's Office Boot Camp
- Adams County Children's Home
- Free educational material from SAMHSA

WEAKNESSES



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- Funding
- Lack of credentialed prevention providers
- Lack of dedicated Prevention Organizations and providers in the county

OPPORTUNITIES



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- Increase Prevention credentialed staff
- Increase community education

THREATS



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- Not getting DFC funding
- Lack of resources to address other substance issues such as vaping.

What is at least one key next step that you need to take with your sustainability plan?

1. Secure DFC funding so the youth prevention programs for underage drinking, tobacco cessation, and prescription drug misuse will become strongly integrated into community programs, school curriculum, and educational programs.
2. Continue to strengthen the Adams County Youth Prevention Coalition to keep people engaged.
3. Focus on building the Youth-Led Coalition to encourage greater participation from all schools in the county.

Update: Adams County Medical Foundation received a Drug-Free Communities Funding Award in September 2024



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