



With the guiding vision that everyone is a part of a healthy, safe, and supportive community and a mission to empower healthy youth, families, and communities, The Collaborative has been operating as a 501c3 nonprofit serving Windham, Windsor, and Bennington counties in Vermont since 1999.



Prevention Lead Region 4

A High-Level Look at Our Work and Impact

Bennington, Brattleboro, Springfield & White River Junction Health Districts

www.pl4.org

About VPLOs

Established in July 2023 by the Vermont Department of Health's Division of Substance Use Programs to ensure coordinated substance misuse prevention efforts statewide.

Key Functions of the Vermont Prevention Lead Organizations:

- **Fiscal Agents:** Serve as fiscal agents to community organizations, managing and allocating substance misuse prevention funding within their regions.
- **Regional Coordination:** Collaborate through a regional advisory structure and work with district partners to distribute funds based on community assessments, risk and protective factors, and community readiness.
- **Funding Allocation:** Utilize a \$3 million annual state appropriation for substance misuse prevention, subgranting these funds to coalitions and other prevention partners according to regional needs.

Focus



Bonus

- Sustain and grow existing prevention partners
- Build additional capacity at all levels of prevention
- Engage non-traditional partners
- Identify populations at higher risk
- Address gap areas to ensure baseline primary prevention while also building capacity

Goals



- Prevent and reduce substance use and misuse across all ages and all substances.
- Ensure all Vermonters have access to substance misuse prevention strategies statewide that allows for and optimizes regional assets and variability.
- Decrease geographic and other health disparities.
- Increase efficiency and collaboration on prevention efforts across all state, public and private entities.

Bonus

About PL4

- Region - Bennington, Windham, Windsor, and Southern Orange County
- **Core Focus Areas:**
 - Substance Misuse Prevention
 - Youth Engagement & Empowerment
 - Mental Health & Well-Being
 - Community Partnerships & Capacity Building
- **Priority Areas**
 - Foster Belonging and Well-Being
 - Combat Loneliness and Cultivate Connection
 - Increase Understanding of Prevention \ The Community's Health
 - Increase Awareness of Resources \ Connection to Care
 - Utilize Collective Impact for Community Transformation



Timeline

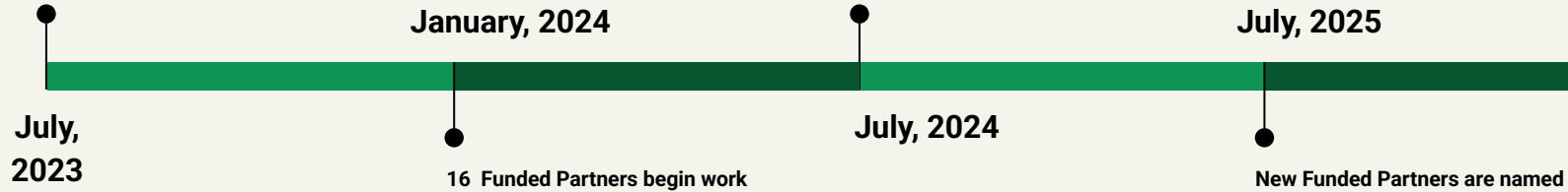


Challenge

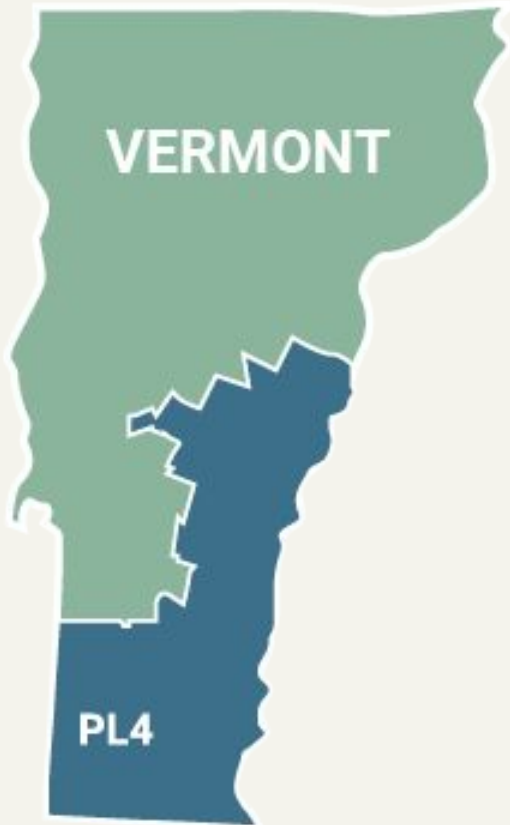
Mt Ascutney Hospital and The Collaborative receive the first VPLO grant.

Challenge

The Collaborative takes on sole LEAD and Fiscal agent for PL4.

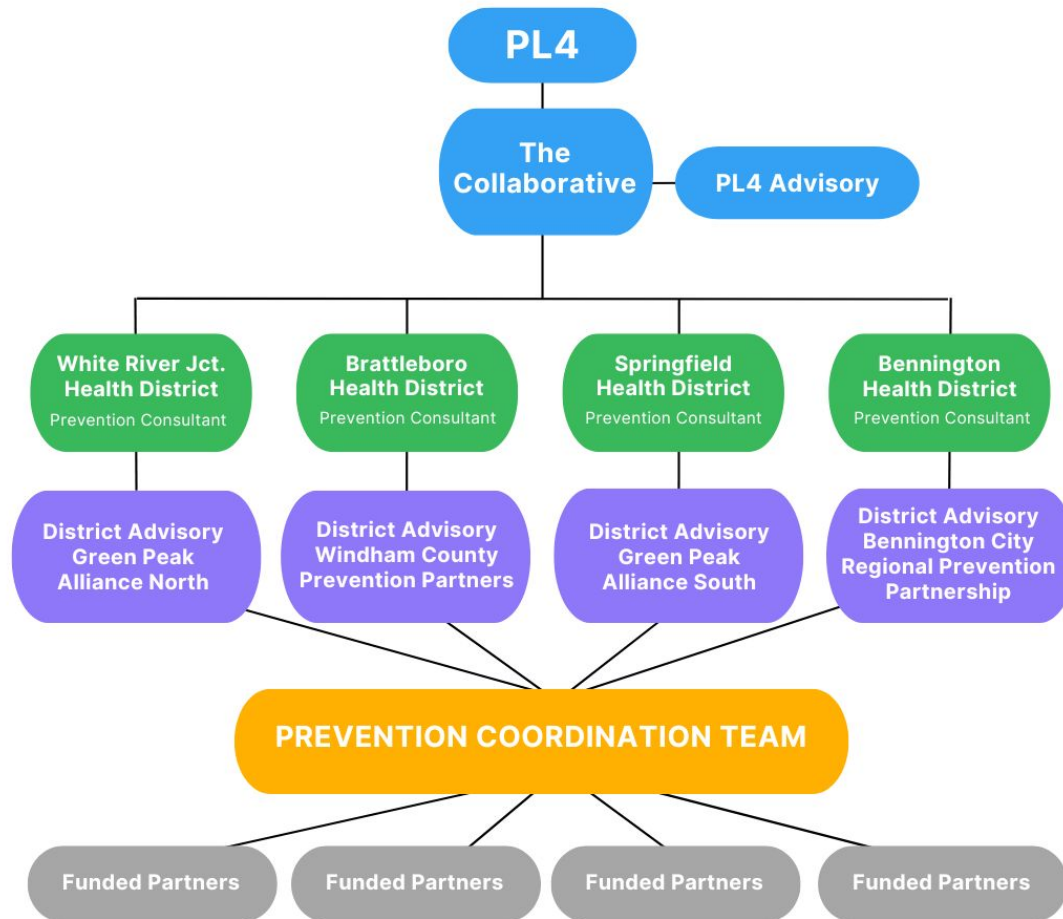


Organizational Structure



The PL4 Advisory Committee provides high-level knowledge, networking, and multi-sector input.

The Prevention Coordination Team's goals include gathering and reviewing assessments, providing technical assistance, and enhancing communication. They recommend priorities and collaborate with the PL4 administrative team.



Funded Partners

Health District	# of Funded Partners
Bennington	4
Brattleboro	2
Springfield	8
White River Junction	5
All	2

Priority Areas	# of Funded Partners
Foster Belonging and Well-Being	13
Combat Loneliness and Cultivate Connection	11
Increase Understanding of Prevention \ The Community's Health	13
Increase Awareness of Resources \ Connection to Care	14
Utilize Collective Impact for Community Transformation	7

Funded Partners



Challenge

VERMONT PREVENTION MODEL

Funded Partners

We currently fund and help to support 18 partners.

001 - Mountain Views Supervisory Union

Annual conference for Woodstock-area high schools students, preventing substance abuse by empowering and training students.

003 - Prevention Works! VT

This project aims to support prevention professionals working with youth in school and community-based settings throughout the Bennington, Brattleboro, Springfield and White River Junction Health Districts.

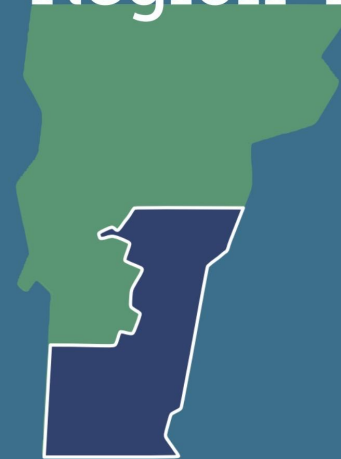
002 - Little Rivers Healthcare

Partners with organizations to promote substance use prevention by engaging and educating adults and youth at familiar locations.

004 - Windham County Prevention Partners

Prevention coalitions in Windham County working together to support a comprehensive effort to promote wellness and prevent the use/misuse of substances, primarily by youth and young adults throughout Windham County.

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Funded Partners

We currently fund and help to support 16 partners.

005 - Springfield Area Parent Child Center

Program offering expert-led community trainings to help Early Childhood Educators and Family Support workers navigate family needs, referrals, and substance use.

007 - The Collaborative

Connection and support for schools and students regarding substance misuse prevention.

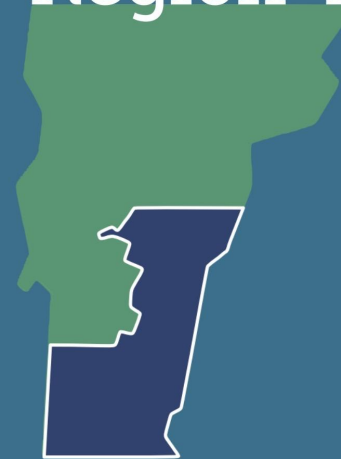
006 - VerShare Corporation

A group initiative that offers guided self-help support groups and community educational events for people coping with a family member/friend abusing drugs and/or alcohol.

008 - ACT Bennington

Increasing Youth Assets and Advancing Health Equity in Bennington

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Funded Partners

We currently fund and help to support 16 partners.

009 - Turning Point RC of Springfield

Turning Point Recovery Center enhances the spiritual, mental, physical, and social growth of our community as a means of promoting successful recovery from substance use disorder.

011 - Hartford Community Coalition

Increasing prosocial activities for Hartford youth, expanding regional prevention education and messaging, while also assessing, growing capacity, and planning for a future teen center.

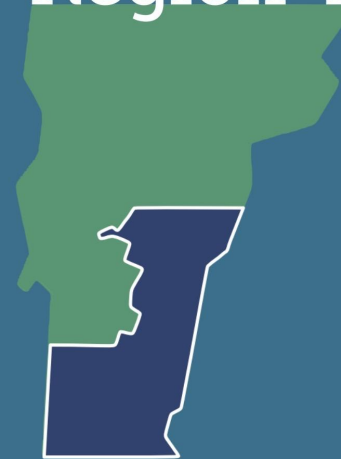
010 - BRACC

BRACC partners with GMUHS and local stakeholders to assess youth needs and engage student ambassadors in creating a downtown Chester “youth third space.”

012 - Valley Court Diversion

Substance misuse prevention education and treatment referrals in a restorative justice setting.

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Funded Partners

We currently fund and help to support 16 partners.

013 - Greater Falls Connections

Inspiring and empowering people through education and collaboration to promote equity, wellness and prevent the misuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, with an emphasis on youth substance misuse prevention.

015 - Second Growth

provides counseling in VT and NH. PL4 funding supports Student Assistance Counselors in delivering prevention education and support to Windsor, VT middle and high school students.

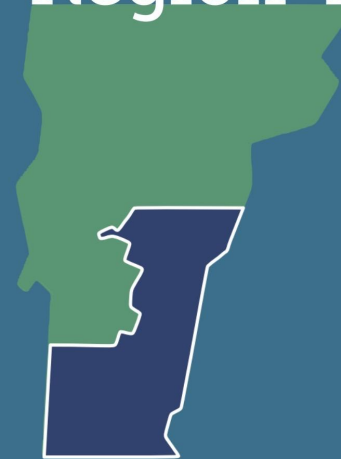
014 - Friends for Change

Friends For Change is a democratically run, youth-led/adult guided, trauma-informed, and play-based club in Bellows Falls, Vermont.

016 - TRORC

Working to update existing health policy resources for municipalities and develop new model ordinance language as needed. TRORC will also coordinate with other RPC staff to foster collaboration around municipal health policy work.

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Funded Partners

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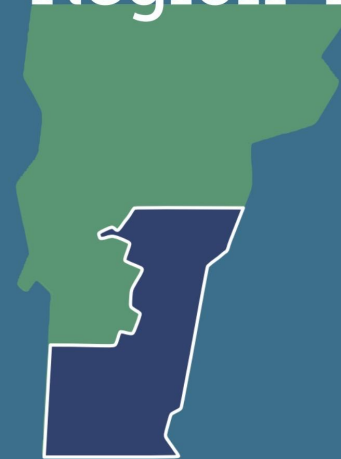
017 - Turning Point Center of Bennington

Soberfest is a substance-free community event for Bennington County. The purpose of this event is to draw our community together for a day of live music, wellness activities, food, and interesting vendors all while promoting the message of sobriety and recovery. Community partners and area-wide prevention, treatment, and recovery resources will also be on site.

018 - Project Action YES

YES aims to expand and embed its existing programming into the Springfield, VT, community. Through 1:1 and group interactions, Youth Empowerment Supports (YES) uses primary and secondary prevention methods to come alongside youth aged 10-21 and their loved ones, inviting them to make healthier choices around substance use.

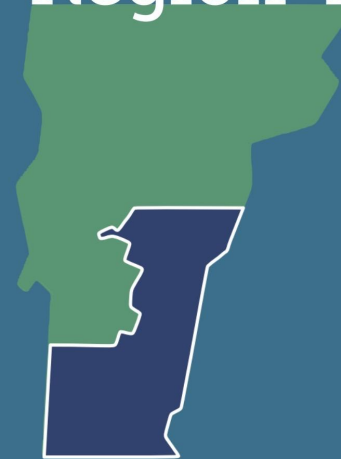
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Funded Partners

- Attend grantee meetings
- Share prevention messaging through social and traditional methods.
- Participate in regional collaboration

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5 Conditions of Collective Impact

Common Agenda

All participants have a **shared vision for change**

Diverse Voices * **Responsive** * **Community Aspiration**

Shared Measurement

We commit to collecting **data** and measuring results consistently

Exploring * **Alignment** * **Tracking Progress** * **Results**

Mutually Reinforcing Activities

Regional participant activities are **differentiated while still being coordinated**

Weaving * **System** * **Supportive** * **Centered**

Continuous Communication

Consistent and open communication occurs which builds trust and synergy

Trust * **Transparency** * **Ongoing** * **Engagement**

Backbone Support

Dedicated staff **serve as the backbone to coordinate** participating organizations and activities

Facilitate * **Convener** * **Coordinate** * **Movement**

Centering Equity

*Our team has **explicitly committed** itself to centering our work on equity and has identified strategies to ensure our work addresses disparities.*

11

Source: FSG

Disparity Impact Statement

Drafted as part of VT's Prevention Lead Organization for Region 4 as a way to identify priority populations at risk, outline existing assets, and to offer a summary of needs and recommendations

USEFUL FOR

- Non-profit organizations who have to identify needs for grant writing
- Schools to identify youth populations at greater risk who may require additional supports
- Community partners who are assets in the community around prevention to encourage networking and connection across the region

Communication



AGING & MEDICATIONS
NOT JUST OLDER. WISER.

“ I find balance every day.
By tuning in to how my
meds make me feel. ”



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Putting Spark in Social for May

IN THIS ISSUE:

[Social 101](#)

[Upcoming Awareness Holidays](#)

[Toolkit of the Month](#)

[Sprout Social Users](#)

[Social Platform Hot Tip of the Month](#)

Strategic Plan

Values Statements

Equitable: We practice empathetic equity, ensuring fair access and opportunity for all through compassionate understanding and the removal of barriers.

Collaborative: We build success through collaborative engagement, cultivating a space where diverse voices are heard and valued, fostering shared knowledge and innovation.

Sustainability: We cultivate sustainability and growth, ensuring long-term support for prevention efforts through continuous learning and the development of skilled coalitions and individuals.

Reliability: We act with integrity and transparency, earning trust through honest communication, ethical conduct, reliability, and responsible stewardship.

Knowledgeable: We blend evidence-based knowledge with innovative approaches to drive positive community change.

Strategic Plan

Priority Areas —————> Strategic Goals

- Foster Belonging and Well-Being
- Combat Loneliness and Cultivate Connection
- Increase Understanding of Prevention \ The Community's Health
- Increase Awareness of Resources \ Connection to Care
- Utilize Collective Impact for Community Transformation

3 Funding Opportunities

Each address our values and requirements at different levels



OPERATIONAL SUPPORT 3 YEARS

Longstanding
Organizations Working
Primarily in Prevention.

Must meet specific
criteria for eligibility.
Can be non competitive
after a LOI.



PROJECT BASED SUPPORT 3 YEARS

Funding is allotted for a
specific strategy
including building
capacity.

Orgs who apply for
Operational Support can
also apply here.



COMMUNITY MICRO FUNDING SHORT TIME FRAME

Released locally to PCT
organizations so they
can release at the
district level to support
community-level
projects. Small
amounts, simple
application..



The Collaborative: Statewide Lead in Tobacco Prevention



- ★ The current Tobacco Grant cycle (7/2024) was the first time Tobacco Control asked coalitions in a written RFP to consider being a State Lead on various initiatives.
 - TC appointed lead on secondhand smoke policy and education
 - Vape disposal
 - Local work expanded TC's geographical reach to Bennington County and the town of Chester

Tobacco Grant Highlights

✓ Second-hand smoke education

Connecting with local and state decision-makers

- Increased protections from youth and young adult access to tobacco products
- Reduced exposure to marketing and promotions
- Protection for all Vermonters from second-hand smoke and vape emissions

Compiling and assessing existing policies, materials, and resources to inform efforts

- Identify best practices for outreach and education
- Displaying smoke-free designation signage
- Promoting updates on Vermont state laws to include regulations on e-cigarettes in cars with children

Tobacco Grant Highlights

✓ Second-hand smoke policy initiatives

Identifying smoke-free outdoor spaces, research, and drafting policy language

- The Collaborative contracted Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) to research and write the Smoke-Free Policy for outdoor spaces
- (A) Model ordinance regulating tobacco use on sidewalks
- (B) Model ordinance regulating use of tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, and cannabis products, and the disposal of related equipment, in Municipal Parks
- (C) Model ordinance regulating notice of smoke-free policies at events



Green Mountain Lightning with smoke-free signage.

Challenges: Lack of best practices around sign placement. Another challenge is working with corporations when a local office wants to create a smoke-free workplace with employee cessation services but corporate is non-supportive. The workaround is the local site joins Great American Smoke Out activities this continues our connection. .

Signage and sustainability – an example: Softball team, Green Mountain Lightning, contacted The Collaborative about second-hand smoke from people in cars parked near the softball field at Manchester Rec. TC helped the team get six smoke-free signs installed to support improved policy language.

Evolution of the Vape Disposal Project

- This grant cycle, TC assigned state lead included Vape Disposal and was connected directly with Josh Kelly, Solid Waste Manager at the Agency of Natural Resources who is leading the roll-out of the State's new Vape Disposal system.
- **Vermont is the first state in country to pass a Household Hazardous Waste Extended Producer Responsibility Law (Act 58/H.67)**
 - Commonly called “product stewardship” or “producer responsibility” where the maker/producer/manufacture of the product helps with the collection program for these waste products
 - Includes nicotine vapes as a “covered” product, meaning manufacturers must pay into this program that must offer statewide collection of nicotine vapes or stop selling their products into Vermont (both online and/or brick-mortar retail).

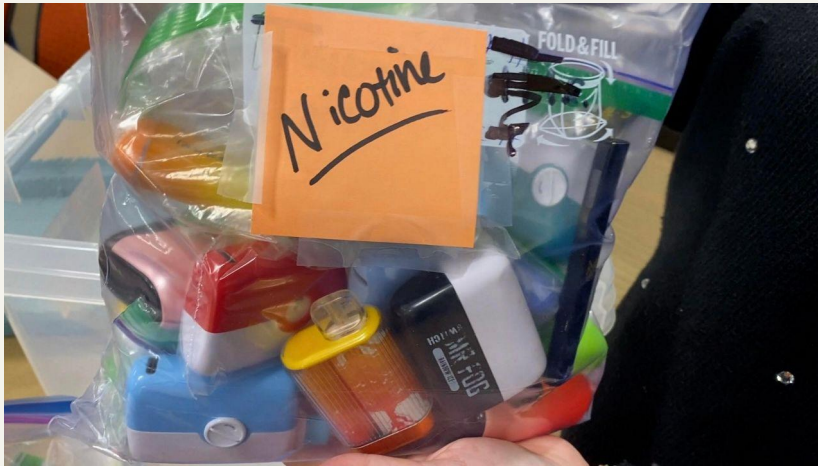
Tobacco Grant Highlights

✓ Vape disposal education and policy

- Worked with Agency of Natural Resources and VDH to understand barriers to disposal
- Connecting cessation options to school policy as new process is launched.
- Surveying partner coalitions:
 - ***What are schools in your region doing with confiscated vape devices?***
 - ***How do schools dispose of other hazardous chemicals or equipment?***

Vape Disposal Barriers/Challenges/Opportunities

- Schools will need to update their policies when students bring vape paraphernalia to school.



Thank You!
