

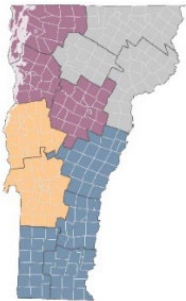
The Vermont Department of Health, Division of Substance Use Programs (DSU) established four Vermont Prevention Lead Organizations (VPLOs) in July 2023 to ensure coordinated prevention work statewide. They serve as fiscal agents to community organizations, coordinate through a regional advisory structure and work with district partners to allocate substance misuse prevention funding in their region. Allocations are based on community assessments, risk and protective factors and community readiness.

The VPLOs are funded by the \$3 million per year state appropriation for substance misuse prevention in Vermont, which is subgranted to substance misuse coalitions and other prevention partners based on data and regional needs.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **4 regional organizations responsible for assessment and subgranting out within their region**
- **68 subgrants to organizations across the state focusing on prevention work**
- **Operating and strategy support for 15 existing substance misuse prevention coalitions**

VPLOs by Health Department district:



Region 1 (Burlington, St. Albans, Barre) – United Way of Northwest Vermont

Region 2 (Middlebury, Rutland) – Rutland Regional Medical Center

Region 3 (Newport, St. Johnsbury, Morrisville) – Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital

Region 4 (Bennington, Brattleboro, Springfield, White River Junction) – The Collaborative

The regional funding structure expands and strengthens Vermont's substance misuse prevention system with flexible, increased, and sustainable dollars that allows for more access, equity, innovation, and reach.

What is the focus?

- 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

What is the funding and structure?

- Subgrant out based on regional needs identified through assessment
- Address disparities in Vermont's substance misuse prevention system that include geographical gaps and populations that are underserved
- Leverage state and federal funding to fill gaps and expand access to prevention statewide
- Coordinate, support and leverage substance misuse prevention efforts at the community, regional and state levels

Prevention System Enhancements

What are the high-level goals?

1. Prevent and reduce substance use and misuse across all ages and all substances.
2. Ensure all Vermonters have access to substance misuse prevention strategies statewide that allows for and optimizes regional assets and variability.
3. Decrease geographic and other health disparities.
4. Increase efficiency and collaboration on prevention efforts across all state, public and private entities through a consolidated and holistic approach to prevention that is sustainable, scalable and equitable.

What will success look like?

A sustainable, scalable, and equitable statewide system in Vermont that prevents or reduces substance use and misuse across all ages and substances that includes and reflects:

- Relevant and effective substance misuse prevention efforts statewide
- Collaborative efforts driven by reliable and timely data, that address contributing factors that lead to use and includes participation from priority populations
- An increase in substance misuse coalitions and other prevention partners that are sustained and thriving
- Inclusion of innovation and non-traditional prevention partners in this work
- An understanding by communities and stakeholders about what substance misuse prevention is and its impact

Substance misuse prevention in Vermont...

- **Focuses on all substances and age groups**
- **Uses a public health approach focused on addressing risk and protective factors**
- **Follows the Vermont Prevention Model**
- **Is built upon the Strategic Prevention Framework and other research-based prevention principles while allowing for flexibility and innovation**
- **Supports and sustains substance misuse prevention coalitions**
- **Is embedded in other organizations and systems such as schools, third spaces and higher education**
- **Engages non-traditional groups and partners**
- **Is coordinated and cost effective**
- **Includes and values primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention**
- **Is continually evolving**

For more information, contact AHS.VDHDSU@vermont.gov.