



AGENCY HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The Prevention Partnership has its origin in an interagency collaboration involving **two** Chicago agencies - The Learning Network, Inc., Right Way Youth Center, and Person Education Development Education, an agency in St. Paul/Minneapolis. In 1984 the directors of these agencies formed The Partners in Prevention program, and in June 1987 incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) minority governed community-based prevention and health promotion agency.

The agency currently operates under the leadership of its Executive Director, a 7-member Board of Directors, 10 full-time employees, and over 20 independent consultants located throughout the country. In addition to projects funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the organization has received funding from the Illinois Public Health and Department of Transportation, City of Chicago Department of Youth and Family Services, City of Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago Public Schools, Community Economic Development Association (Head Start Programs), Advocate Health Care and the Chicago Foundation for Women. The Prevention Partnership, Inc.'s, Mission Statement reads:

Promoting positive habits through education, prevention, and intervention, enabling individuals and communities to gain the power to persevere.

The Prevention Partnership bases its work on the conviction that community-based teams in possession of planning, communication and decision-making skills are the most effective agents for solving community problems. Using a systems approach, The Prevention Partnership facilitates a process that enables a community to integrate its cultural, political, spiritual, social, philosophical beliefs and values into a mechanism for positive change.

Accomplishments include, but are not limited to:

1. 1987-Present: Provided training and technical assistance to Chicago Public Schools and Cook County South Suburban Communities in addressing alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, HIV/AIDS and other social and health related problems. Kimberly Fornero, Chief Bureau of Community Prevention for Illinois Department of Human Services summed up the effect of The Prevention Partnership, Inc., on these communities when she wrote, "The Prevention Partnership, Inc., has been a pioneer in the development, implementation and evaluation of services in our state, especially in our very high-risk communities."
2. 1987-Present: The Prevention Partnership, Inc., has an ongoing relationship with the Chicago Public Schools having established Youth Peer Leadership Programs addressing HIV/AIDS/STI's, violence prevention along with alcohol and other drug education.

3. 1990-1995: Several (approximately 25) community organizations requested training and technical assistance from The Prevention Partnership. Both the City of Chicago and the MacArthur Foundation approved it as the fiscal agent for The Campaign for a Drug Free Westside.
4. 1991- 2010: The Family Wellness Program (FWP) began in 1991 as a collaboration between the Community Economic Development Association (CEDA) of Cook County Illinois Suburban Head Start Centers and The Prevention Partnership, Inc. (P2). In the spring of 1992, an application was prepared by P2 and CEDA and submitted to the US Department of Health and Human Services for approximately \$300,000 (\$150,000 per year for two years). All Head Start Centers in CEDA were involved and they all established Family Wellness Teams. Concurrently, the agency received a \$40,000 Conference Grant from the federal Office of Substance Abuse Prevention (OSAP) to conduct a 40-workshop track on Prevention and Head Start. Presented within the context of the Region V Head Start Conference held in Chicago, the track was the first of its kind in the country. The Family Wellness Program continued through 2010 with additional, various funding sources and communities participating.
5. 1993-Present: According to the Chicago Department of Public Health, The Prevention Partnership is a leader in HIV/AIDS prevention services (youth, women and the faith-based community) on Chicago's west side.
6. 1997-2000: The agency, through our HIV/AIDS/STD Initiative Director, co-founded and co-chaired the Westside HIV/AIDS Regional Planning Group. This configuration had over 50 member organizations and held monthly meetings at The Prevention Partnership offices.
7. 1999-2002: The Prevention Partnership's HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse Prevention for African American Youth Project (Cohort 1) was part of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Minority HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative. The agency was one of 47 programs representing different parts of the United States. The executive summary report from The Prevention Partnership local evaluator (Loyola University Chicago) stated "All three components of the program were well executed". Site visit summaries from JSI Research Institute also indicated a high level of satisfaction and considered the program one of the most successful in the National Initiative.
8. 2001-2005: The HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse Prevention for African American Women Project was also part of the Center for Substance Abuse Minority HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative (Cohort 2). This program provided similar results as the agency's youth initiative
9. 2002: P2 initiated and managed the first HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse Legislative Breakfast Co-chaired by Congressman Danny K. Davis from Illinois and Congresswomen Donna Christian Christiansen from the Virgin Islands. The event was held at the Hyatt Regency in Washington, DC.

10. 2002: In December, as part of its recognition of World AIDS Day, the Chicago Department of Public Health awarded The Prevention Partnership its “Award for Excellence for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services”. Supporting information and documentation for this award was gathered by an independent review panel and the department considered 36 organizations for the award.
11. 2003: Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Community Health and Prevention contracted with The Prevention Partnership to conduct 6 Regional Conversations/Search Conferences throughout the state to receive feedback from the field of prevention on how to improve and enhance prevention services. A seventh session, reporting the findings, was conducted, and a thorough written report followed.
12. 2004-2006: The Prevention Partnership, Inc., conducted four (4) Midwest Faith-based Conferences on HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse program. Two of the conferences received funding from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention through the McFarland Group to conduct Conferences on Sustainability and Capacity Building in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Public Health in their Conference on Emergency Preparedness.
13. 2007-2015: The Prevention Partnership, Inc. was one of eighteen grantees of the Illinois Department of Human Services Strategic Prevention Framework-State Incentive Grant (SPF/SIG). This grant focused on underage drinking and was funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.
14. 2007-2015: P2 implemented and evaluated the Illinois State Prevention Bowl in collaboration with major sports venues (United Center, Wrigley Field, Toyota Park, Soldier Field, US Cellular Field) and the sports franchises that play in those venues. The Illinois State Prevention Bowl brought together youth from Chicago and South Suburban Illinois to compete for recognition and prizes as they utilized their ATOD and health promotion knowledge.
15. 2008-2009: P2’s Peer Leadership Prevention Education and Parent Involvement Program was recommended by the Illinois Department of Human Services as the State’s Most Promising Prevention Program.
16. 2010: The Prevention Partnership Inc.’s, Healthy Fatherhood Demonstration Program was created in collaboration with the Community Economic Development Association of Cook County (CEDA). This program consisted of two components: Healthy Marriage Seminars and Economic Stability Seminars.
17. 2010: Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago and The Prevention Partnership collaborated on a Tobacco Prevention Project for youth in Austin and its neighboring communities in Chicago.

18. 2011: In conjunction with Bethany Advocate Health Care, P2 developed an HIV/AIDS Youth Peer Health Educator Project implemented in Austin.
19. 2011: Through the Chicago Heights Alliance, The Prevention Partnership, Inc., secured a Model Communities grant from the Cook County Department of Public Health, with the goal of improving nutrition and opportunities for physical fitness in the community. The grant helped provide for a Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, Healthy Hotspots Conversion, youth soccer/basketball tournaments, revision of SD 170 school nutrition plan, healthy taste tests, etc.
20. 2012-Present: Illinois Department of Human Services awarded the agency a grant for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Project. The intent is to bring prevention and education Programming to Southland Cook County high school students, with the goal of reducing STD/HIV and teen pregnancy rates.
21. 2013: The Illinois Department of Transportation Seatbelt Safety/Responsible Driver Initiative in the Austin community was awarded to P2 and the Austin Coalition for Healthy Lifestyles.
22. 2015-present: The Prevention Partnership, Inc., established the Great Lakes Urban Initiative Behavioral and Public Health Orientation and Planning Program. This program was supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Two representatives from Chicago, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Detroit, Michigan; Minneapolis, Minnesota, Columbus, Ohio; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin attended the event on February 7 and 8, 2016 that was hosted at the Trickster Native American Gallery/Museum Schaumburg, Illinois.
23. 2016-2017: P2 received the Cook County Violence Prevention Intervention and Reduction Demonstration Grant to implement the pilot Healthy Education Lifestyle Program. The evaluation was completed by Dr. Lurigio of Loyola University who designated the work as a promising program, with a focus on trauma and violence prevention.
24. 2018-present: P2 received a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to develop a program to provide Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training (BASSET).
25. 2018-present: The agency was awarded a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to implement the Healthy Educational Lifestyle Program (HELP). This program is youth driven and focused on curbing Impaired Driving.
26. 2019- 21: In July 2019 State Representative La Shawn K. Ford, IL-8, asked P2 to assume the role of coordinator of the West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force. The Task Force, convened by Rep. Ford in 2016, brings together community- based agencies (CBO), governmental entities, health care providers and persons with lived experience to confront the epidemic of opioid overdoses and resultant deaths in Chicago's West Side communities. Since P2 began the co- ordinating role, the Task Force membership

has grown by 240 persons, a 70% increase. Task Force member groups have trained over 3,000 persons in Opioid Overdose Awareness and have distributed over 6,000 doses of the life-saving Opioid antidote naloxone. The West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force project has been refunded for FY21.

Program Goal: Stronger mental and physical health

Program Objectives:

- Raise awareness of illegal drug use
- Increase supportive services for persons who use drugs
- Increase overdose response
- Integrate mental health and substance use disorder treatment and recovery
- Implement a coordinated collaborative for better outcomes

27. 2020–present: In February of 2020, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Department of Substance Use, and Recovery (SUPR) selected and contracted with P2 to implement a project to engage residents and community gate-keepers Chicago’s Westside communities (Austin, East and West Garfield, and North Lawndale in discussions about Overdose Prevention Sites. The Community Engagement Project on Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS) focuses on reaching out to Westside community members—residents, businesses, churches, healthcare organizations, law enforcement, elected officials, people in recovery and those who are actively using opioids, and other groups—and educating them about OPS. There is commitment to obtaining their input on concerns related to OPS, and promoting community buy-in. Action steps included surveying over 400 residents along with conducting focus groups comprised of business and faith-based organization leaders, social service providers and people who use drugs. The project is in its second year in FY21.

28. On August 17, 2023, Prevention Partnership was notified that it was one of 10 organizations selected nationally, from over 430 submissions, as a winner of the inaugural SAMHSA Behavioral Health Equity Challenge. The award was given in recognition of the work of the West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force which P2 has served as the coordinating agency since July of 2019. Per SAMHSA, “Winners of the challenge presented exciting approaches to effective outreach and engage with racial and ethnic underserved individuals in order to foster behavioral health equity throughout the country.” In addition to a \$50,000 award, the agency will be given a national spotlight on SAMHSA’s website, as well as additional exposure nationally. For more information on the award: <https://www.samhsa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/offices-centers/obhe/equity-challenge/winners>