SAMHSA/CSAP is funding three state awards through a new discretionary grant program that is built on but expands the vision of the current SPF SIG grants. The award is for $2.3 million annually for five years, and is only available to SPF SIG state recipients from cohorts 1 and 2 of that federal funding. The proposal is due on May 25, and may only be submitted by the Office of the Governor.

The project is designed to identify one state prevention priority, choose one behavioral indicator of success that can be measured (such as alcohol related traffic crashes or binge drinking rates) and fund communities to use evidence based practices to reduce that indicator. Funded states that reach this performance target after three years will receive an additional $500,000 per year to expand the reach of their project. All activities funded under this project must be approved by an evidence-based workgroup identified in the state’s proposal; this workgroup is a subcommittee of the state level advisory group.

The Office of Substance Abuse Prevention, New Mexico’s authorized single point of contact for prevention, will submit a proposal for this funding. The State Epidemiological Workgroup met on Friday and selected the following priority behaviors to target with this project: binge drinking, drinking and driving, and underage drinking. The ultimate priority indicator was selected based on data provided by the Department of Health’s Epidemiology and Response Division, and is **alcohol related injuries and fatalities (including DWI)**. If awarded to New Mexico, the funding will support community projects in the current SPF SIG state grant, who have already built tremendous capacity to address much of this priority, as they already focus on **alcohol related traffic fatalities** as their priority. Strategies will focus on creating positive environmental change across the state’s recipient communities, which includes several tribal programs.

The funding provides an exciting opportunity to develop a new and exciting affiliation with other state level prevention efforts, including those of the DWI Czar, the Department of Finance and Administration, local county DWI programs, the Department of Transportation’s Traffic Safety Bureau, the Children Youth and Families Department, the Public Education Department, and the Department of Health’s Office of School and Adolescent Health, where a focus on reducing underage drinking through School Based Health Centers can be maximized. Within the Collaborative structure, the funding provides an equally exciting opportunity to work with Optum Health to create a prevention infrastructure through its regional offices and through its Region VI Native American office.

Today we request that the Substance Abuse Subcommittee of the Behavioral Health Planning Council vote to assume the role of the State Prevention Advisory Council for this grant proposal. If successful, the project team will work with the Collaborative, Optum Health, and state agencies to create a cross agency expert team to serve as a workgroup of this Subcommittee, and to function as an active expert prevention advisory group to the project.