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. New Mexico is a cohort 1 recipient. The proposal is due on May 27, and may only be submitted by the Office of the Governor. It is being prepared by New Mexico’s Office of Substance Abuse Prevention.

The project is designed to reduce one statewide prevention priority or consequence, alcohol related injuries, and its associated behavioral indicators, in this case, underage drinking, binge drinking, and drinking and driving. The project will fund communities to build on their current capacity to implement evidence-based practices to address these indicators, and demonstrate a measurable reduction in 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 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 used an extensive data set to identify the priority behaviors to target with this project, which build on the current efforts in New Mexico: 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 the fifteen 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 opportunity to develop a new affiliation with other state level prevention efforts, including those of the Department of Finance and Administration, local 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. Within the Collaborative structure, the funding provides an exciting opportunity to work with Optum Health to create a prevention infrastructure through its regional offices, including the Region VI Native American office.

The Behavioral Health Planning Council’s Substance Abuse Subcommittee serves as the State Prevention Advisory Council for current efforts. If successful, the project team will work with the Council to create a cross agency and stakeholder team to serve as a workgroup of this Subcommittee, which will function as the prevention advisory group to the project. The Council is requested to approve this project as part of its substance abuse advisory role.