

# Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative

## *Partners for Healthy Communities*

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### Coalition Mission

The mission of the West Central Community Prevention and Wellness Coalition is to promote community health and wellness by offering prevention services, reducing underage alcohol consumption and reducing illicit drug use.

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### Coalition Coordinators

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### *West Central Community Prevention and Wellness Coalition Spokane, Washington*



#### **About the Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI):**

CPWI is a partnership of state agencies, counties, schools and local prevention coalitions supporting communities in preventing alcohol and other drug abuse and its negative consequences. Our highest priority is to reduce underage drinking among 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. By providing evidence-based practices and promoting the positive changes in communities, we can build healthier communities.

#### **About the Coalition: Communities and Schools Working Together**

The Coalition was founded in 2012 and was originally part of the West Central Community Center Coalition. The boundaries for this community include all the area west of Division and South of Wellesley to the Spokane River which borders the far west and far south sides.

The Coalition has partnerships with schools, churches, non-profit social service groups, mental health providers, health care representatives, the recovery community, youth programs, law enforcement and business representatives. One full time prevention intervention specialist is placed at North Central High School as a part of the prevention activities made possible by the Coalition.

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## Other Contacts

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## County Contact

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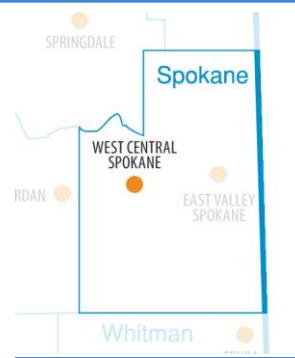
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CPWI is funded by:



## About Our Community

West Central is a racially and ethnically diverse community with unique challenges stemming from a number of factors such as low incomes, health disparities and health inequities, high crime rates, and gang and drug activity in some neighborhoods. However, there are also many positives that exist such as affordable housing, public transportation, convenient distances to shopping, many social services programs, historical landmarks and business investments – especially in the area of housing.

The Community Center where the coalition meets was established in 1994 and is the official hub of community resources for the surrounding neighborhoods. Services at the community center include health care, before and after school programs, WIC nutrition program, and HeadStart. The Community Center includes a gym and large meeting rooms which allow it to be the meeting place for community stakeholders. Once a year, the City Council holds a meeting in the Community Center. Several times a year community festivals and wellness events take place at the Center.

Across the street is the NATIVE Project originally founded as a chemical dependency treatment program for youth. Today, NATIVE Project is a health care organization offering medical care, mental health care, chemical dependency treatment, and prevention and wellness activities. Everyone is welcome and a high number of urban Native American people are served.

## About Prevention Programs in our Community

The Coalition sponsors several evidence-based prevention programs such as Botvin Life Skills Training, Strengthening Families Program, Peer Assisted Leadership Program, Positive Action, and Guiding Good Choices Parent training. In the schools, we support Washington Drug Free Youth Clubs (WDFY). In addition, the coalition has supported before and after school activities, summer programs for youth and Teen Night as safe alternatives for kids at risk.