

Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative *Partners* for Healthy Communities



Unlimited Potential for the next generation™
Potencial Ilimitado para la próxima generación™

Vision: Sunnyside: A Safe and Healthy Community where young people are equipped for success and a bright future.

Mission: Unlocking Sunnyside's potential for a safer, healthier prosperous drug/alcohol free community for our youth.

Contacts

Sunnyside United-Unidos
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Sunnyside, WA 98944
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(509) 836-8727
Support by the Sunnyside School District

Sunnyside United-Unidos Sunnyside, WA



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 8th and 10th 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

About the Coalition:

Sunnyside residents have long been concerned about the level of youth alcohol and other drug use, as well as youth violence. Coalition work began here in the late 1990s and Coalition leadership has evolved over the years to meet the needs of local youth, and to work within available financial and human resources.

Sunnyside United-Unidos began in October 2012. The coalition is made up of a strong group of volunteers who want Sunnyside youth to thrive and grow up in a healthy community. We work closely with local schools, healthcare professionals, the media, law enforcement and the faith based community. The coalition has two focus areas: Youth substance abuse and youth gang violence. The coalition has the support of key leaders in the community who are actively involved in the coalition.

Washington State Healthy Youth Survey data shows Sunnyside youth report higher than state average rates of substance use and a lower than state average perception of harm among youth. Data indicates youth get their alcohol from home, family celebrations, parties, friends and buying it at local stores.

Challenges: Inconsistently applied regulations to school drug/alcohol policies and laws governing consumption of alcohol and other drugs; lack of knowledge by adults of the harms of underage drinking; low perception of risk and consequences of youth alcohol use; availability of alcohol and marijuana to youth.

Strengths: The Sunnyside Police Department, School District personnel and City Council members are actively involved in Sunnyside United-Unidos; working to help address the challenges presented. Youth gang crime has significantly decreased in the past 4 years.

Other Contacts

ESD 105 Sharon Allen (509) 454-3107
susan.martin@esd105

Sunnyside School District

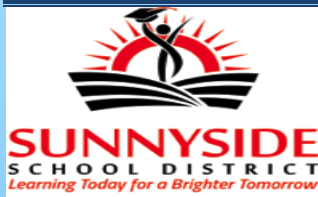
Cody Gardiner, Special Services Director
(509) 836-8731
cody.gardiner@sunnysideschools.org

Student Assistance Program

Specialist

Harrison Middle School
Sierra Vista Middle School
Ignacio Serna
(509) 837-2601
Ignacio.serna@sunnysideschools.org

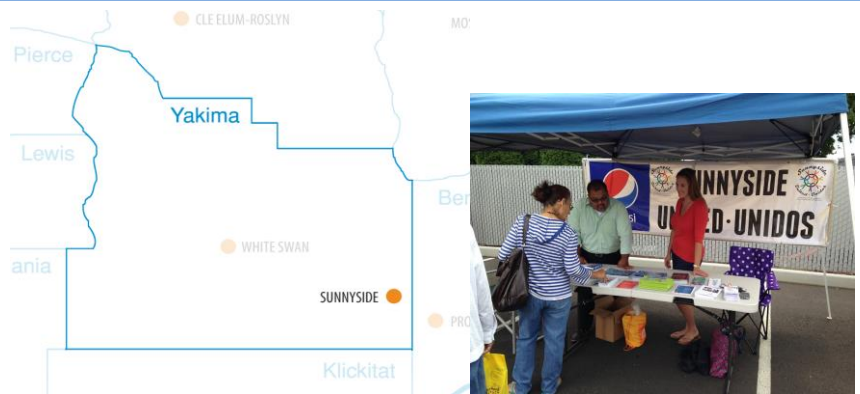
Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the Month, 10:00 – 11:30,
Denny Blaine Building,
810 Custer Avenue



CPWI is funded by:



For more information about CPWI visit
<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/daprevention/services.shtml>



About Our Community

Sunnyside is located in south-central Washington, at the southern end of Yakima County. Sunnyside is predominantly a rural, agricultural community. The growth and processing of tree fruits, grapes, asparagus and hops provide many jobs, however many are minimum wage and some are seasonal. In addition to a poverty rate that is nearly 2 ½ times the state average, we are also challenged by low rates of education by many adults in the community. We are a diverse community: 68.2% of Sunnyside residents speak a language other than English in the home.

Sunnyside School District received a special grant to address low graduation rates in 2010. Making significant progress since that time, Sunnyside had a graduation rate of 85% in 2014. This was the largest graduating class in school history, as well as the largest class to earn diplomas in Yakima County in 2014. Addressing barriers to learning, such as youth substance abuse and violence, are an integral part of this program.

Sunnyside's downtown is being renovated, and work is being done to bring more businesses in and boost the economy.

Sunnyside Statistics

Population 16,054

Ethnic

Hispanic 82.2%
Black Alone 0.2%
American Indian Alone .5%
Other Race Alone .2%

Median Income \$32,727

Diversity Zoning Rural

White Alone 15.7%
Asian Alone 0.7%
Two or More Races .5
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander .03%

About Prevention Programs in our Community

- **Multi-Media Program:** Educating youth and adults about the dangers of youth alcohol and other drug use. Campaign includes Spanish and English print, radio and social media outlets.
- **Compliance Checks:** Periodic compliance checks are conducted at local restaurants and retail outlets that sell alcoholic beverages.
- **School Policy Review:** Annual review of the School Substance Abuse Policies and Procedures.
- **Project Success:** Best practice prevention/intervention program used at the secondary schools.
- **The Prevention Education Series:** 9th Grade
- **Life Skills:** 7th and 8th Grade
- **Strengthening Multi-Ethnic Families**
- **Youth Prevention Club**
- **Community Education Events**