

# Px Workforce Development

## Overview

Developing the workforce in Washington State is just one of the ways that the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) has contributed to expanding the reach and impact of prevention services in the state. DBHR provides many opportunities for current prevention providers to continue their education, as well as several opportunities for high school and college students to train into prevention via our Fellowship and Internship programs.

### Fellowship Program

In January 2019, DBHR welcomed the first cohort of the Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI) Prevention Fellows. The new program is supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and implemented in partnership with Washington State University (WSU).

The CPWI Fellowship Program works to expand the field of substance use disorder prevention and build capacity in communities that could benefit from CPWI. The Fellows:

- Develop knowledge of prevention science and best practices by participating in statewide prevention trainings
- Gain experience in strategic planning, program design, implementation, and contract and program management
- Assist the state with policy and programmatic development
- Provide technical assistance to CPWI communities

The Fellowship emerged out of a vision to build capacity for high-need communities to get ready for the CPWI “Getting Started” phase, built out of the Strategic Prevention Framework, and the vision to develop the prevention workforce.

As of January 2020, a total of 14 individuals will have started the program. One Fellow reflects on the program:

*“The exposure and educational opportunities that were provided to me in my time as a Fellow have opened up my mind and world view.” – Destiny Eversull, Cohort 1*

### High School Internship Program

The High School Student Intern Program is a work-based learning program. It is a training placement program for high school students. The program places students into professional work environments to supplement academic knowledge, provide exposure and experience within specific career pathways, and increases cooperation between businesses and schools. The program aims to integrate tactile learning with structured worksite experience under representative of the school and the workplace to provide students with necessary skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

This program is beneficial in the workforce experience it gives to participants, as well as gives them a look at some possible career options in the field.

### Trainings

DBHR provides conference training and online learning resources to prevention professionals in order to improve their understanding of prevention science and to engage the next generation of prevention professionals. These recurring trainings include:

- CPWI Coordinator Orientation and Leadership Institute
- [Spring Youth Forum](#)
- [Opioid Summit](#)
- [WA State Prevention Summit](#)
- [General Prevention Trainings](#)
- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) Boot Camp
- Additional trainings available via [The Athena Forum](#)



## **Budget**

The Fellowship Program is supported through the State Opioid Response grant; the Intern Program is funded through the Substance Abuse Block Grant; and prevention trainings are supported through state and federal discretionary grants.

## **Partners**

University of Washington Social Development Research Group, Washington State University, University of Reno, community coalitions, prevention professionals around Washington State, and the Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC).

## **Oversight**

Internal: Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

External: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration/ Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Washington State University

## **For More Information**

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Websites:

<https://www.theathenaforum.org/fellowship>

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