

## 2020 NPN Conference Workshop Topics and Conference Theme

Workshop proposals should fit into one of the six (6) possible topics listed below related to substance use prevention. Proposals should address the conference theme, *Advancing Prevention Science through the Lens of Change: How Sweet It Is!*.

### Highlighted Topics:

1. Evidence-based Programs and Strategies to Prevent or Reduce Substance Use
2. Innovative Evidence-informed Approaches to Prevent or Reduce Substance Use
3. Prevention Workforce Development
4. Community Empowerment and Capacity Building
5. Drug Trends and Emerging Issues
6. Cross-Sector Collaboration for Substance Use Prevention

*Note: The descriptors below for each topic are representative of issues, trends and discussion points that are provided as examples. Presenters may submit proposals outside of the descriptors listed below; however, they must relate to substance use prevention. [Downloadable list of topics.](#)*

### 1. Evidence-based Programs and Strategies to Prevent or Reduce Substance Use

#### Topic Categories and Examples:

State and community *evidence-based* substance use prevention strategies; challenges; effectiveness vs. non-evidence practices, programs, and strategies; Mental Emotional Behavioral (MEBs) practices; environmental strategies and state grant program results and state plans; emerging practices and evidence in prevention; evidence-based public education efforts, including public awareness, social media or marketing efforts, technology; population behavioral health.

### 2. Innovative Evidence-informed Approaches to Prevent or Reduce Substance Use

#### Topic Categories and Examples:

State and community *innovative evidence-informed* substance use prevention approaches; evidence-informed emerging practices in prevention; new outcome and emerging research on what is working; innovative public education efforts, including public awareness, social media or marketing efforts, technology; population behavioral health; systemic work to improve prevention service delivery.

### *3. Prevention Workforce Development*

#### **Topic Categories and Examples:**

Certification; leadership skills; strengthening and diversifying the prevention workforce; prevention ethics; innovation in workforce development; rural prevention workforce development; technology; implementation and diffusion of evidence-based practices; youth leadership; multi-generational workplace issues; recruitment, intentional onboarding of new staff, training, retention, and succession planning.

### *4. Community Engagement and Capacity Building*

#### **Topic Categories and Examples:**

National, state agency, and local community partnerships; coalition building and sustainability; grassroots mobilization; leveraging shared risk and protective factors; engaging various community partners, such as: youth, teachers, businesses, faith leaders, law enforcement, military/national guard, veterans and their families, child protection, juvenile justice, peer mentors, treatment providers, suicide prevention, homeless coalitions/providers, food banks, YMCA and clubs like Boys & Girls Club, parent support groups, recovery residences, domestic violence advocates/shelters, and other school personnel (principals, counselors, attendance directors, nurses, social workers, prevention resource officers, school-based health centers, health teachers, coaches).

### *5. Drug Trends and Emerging Issues*

#### **Topic Categories and Examples:**

The following populations should be considered: youth, young adult, college population, adult, military connected, and aging. Workshops may also include discussions around: regulation, policies, enforcement issues, positive social media or marketing campaigns, and public education. Drug use trends, new data, and prevention strategies can focus on all substances (alcohol, marijuana, prescription opioids, heroin, fentanyl, methamphetamine, etc.). Examples of emerging issues that may be addressed include: vaping/e-cigarettes; raising the legal sale age for tobacco products (Tobacco21); synthetics; implications of poly-drug use.

### *6. Cross-Sector Collaboration for Substance Use Prevention*

#### **Topic Categories and Examples:**

Mental Emotional Behavioral (MEBs); mental health promotion and wellness; suicide prevention; primary healthcare; teen pregnancy prevention; gambling prevention; trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs); child welfare; criminal justice; collective impact; working across the continuum of care (treatment and recovery support); tribal opportunities for substance use prevention.