

Chippewa County *Communities That Care* Community Resource Assessment Report

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Prepared by: Chippewa County Communities That Cares

Chippewa County *Communities That Care* Sponsors (e.g.):

Northcare Network

Chippewa County *Communities That Care* Participants

Chippewa County *Communities That Care* is a collaborative project of public and private health, education, human service, and civic organizations; local businesses; and citizens. Some of those who have been represented include:

Chippewa County Health Department
EUPISD
FAN of Chippewa County
MyMichigan Sault
Hiawatha Behavioral Health
CLM Community Action Agency
MSU Extension 4-H

Bay Mills Health Center
Mental Health Center
Sault Health Adolescent Care Center
Sault Area Public Schools
Diane Peppler Resource Center
EUP Great Start Collaborative
Youth Mental Health Council

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Executive Summary

This report describes the results of the resource assessment completed as part of the Chippewa County *Communities That Care* effort. The *Communities That Care* system is a way for members of a community to work together to promote positive youth development. The system was developed by Dr. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard Catalano and is based on their research, which has identified risk factors that predict youth problem behaviors and protective factors that buffer children from risk and help them succeed in life.

A key goal of the *Communities That Care* effort is to identify which risk factors, protective factors, and problem behaviors are prevalent in a community, and implement tested, effective programs to address the community's unique profile. To that end, the Risk and Protective Factor Assessment workgroup collected and analyzed data on the Chippewa County area and, with input from the community, identified the following risk factors as priorities for community planning:

- Low Commitment to School
- Perceived Risk of Drug Use
- Parents' Attitudes Favorable Towards Anti-Social Behaviors

The resource assessment was the next step in the *Communities That Care* process. In July 2025, members of the Resource Assessment and Evaluation workgroup attended the Assessing Community Resources Workshop. Using a survey refined at the workshop, workgroup members collected prevention program information from the Chippewa County area, specific to youth in grades 6th through 12th. The assessment was completed in July 2025.

Based on the assessment information, the Resource Assessment and Evaluation workgroup suggests that:

- There is one tested, effective resource in the Chippewa County area that addresses the risk factor, *Low Commitment to School*. Several programs impact this risk factor that have not been scientifically evaluated for evidence of effectiveness or been defined as tested and effective. This report recommends the community board supplement untested resources with tested, effective programs, and that tested, effective resources addressing *Low Commitment to School* be expanded to include the entire community.
- There is one tested, effective resource in the Chippewa County area that addresses the risk factor, *Perceived Risk of Drug Use*. Several other programs impact these risk factors, yet they have not been scientifically evaluated for evidence of effectiveness or been defined as tested and effective. This report recommends the community board supplement untested resources with tested, effective programs, and that tested, effective resources addressing the *Perceived Risk of Drug Use* be expanded to include the entire community.
- Any programs that are chosen to address the above risk factors should also include a focus on at least one of the targeted protective factors. Additional ways to augment the protective factors should be provided whenever possible (perhaps through other funding sources).



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Introduction

The Chippewa County *Communities That Care* Effort

In the fall of 2017, the Chippewa County Community began implementing the Communities That Care prevention-planning system. Developed by Dr. J. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard Catalano of the University of Washington's Social Development Research Group (SDRG) in Seattle, Washington, the Communities That Cares system is a way for members of a community to work together to efficiently and effectively promote positive youth development and prevent youth problem behaviors such as substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, school drop-outs, and violence.

The Chippewa County Communities That Care Project seeks to reduce problem behaviors and promote positive behaviors by addressing risk factors that exist in the community that have been shown to increase the likelihood that children will become involved in problem behaviors in adolescence and young adulthood. The Chippewa Communities That Care Project will also attempt to enhance protective factors in the community that have been shown to buffer the effects of exposure to risk factors.

The Chippewa County community is using the Communities That Care process to achieve the community's vision of a compassionate, accepting community of people actively working together to create a safe and healthy environment for all.

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Key Accomplishments in the Chippewa County Community

- The *Student Survey* was administered in the Fall of 2024 to 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in Chippewa County public schools.
- In March 2025, the Data Group Met to assess data, and Coalition Members attended the Community Assessment Training and completed the Community Risk and Protective Factor Assessment Report.
- In July 2025, members of the coalition attended the Assessing Community Resources Workshop. Using a survey refined at the training event, workgroup members collected prevention program information from the Chippewa County area, specific to youth in grades six to twelve. The assessment was completed in July 2025. This report details the results of that assessment.



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The Resource Assessment

The key goal of the *Communities That Care* system is for the community to develop a profile of the risk factors, protective factors, and problem behaviors in their community, and to develop a plan for addressing the risk factors that are most elevated while enhancing protective factors.

This report supports the second step in that process. The Resource Assessment and Evaluation workgroup has collected information about the resources that address the Chippewa County *Communities That Care* priority risk and protective factors. The workgroup used survey information and input from the community to identify tested, effective resources that focus on youth and families of youth in grades 6th – 12th, as well as the gaps in those resources. Coupled with the Community Assessment Report, the information contained in this report will serve as the foundation for the Chippewa County *Communities That Care* Community Action Plan.

How the Information Was Collected

During the Assessing Community Resources Workshop, workgroup members created a list of agencies, organizations, and groups in the area that provide programming for children. Next, workgroup members refined a survey to gather relevant information from each resource listed in the inventory. The survey was used to confirm whether each resource addresses one or more of the Chippewa County *Communities That Care* priority risk or protective factors and impacts youth in grades 6th – 12th. Additionally, the survey questions helped workgroup members identify each resource's goals and strategies, target population, evaluation history, and evidence of effectiveness, and any gaps in, issues with, or barriers to service.

Members of the coalition, the community coordinator, and other community members administered the survey to all agreeable agencies, organizations, and groups on the list; the majority of the surveys were completed. As a result, workgroup members were able to identify resources available to youth in the Chippewa County area that fit the criteria of tested and effective prevention strategies.

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Assessment details

Members of the Coalition analyzed the survey information to identify tested, effective youth-development and prevention resources, as well as resource gaps and areas for improvement that exist in the Chippewa County area. The following criteria were established for effective resources:

- An effective resource should address research-based priority risk factors.
- An effective resource should enhance research-based priority protective factors.
- An effective resource should intervene at a developmentally appropriate age.
- An effective resource should have demonstrated effectiveness in a high-quality evaluation.

Gaps were identified in several ways. Survey items were used to identify resource-specific gaps, such as failure to serve a geographic area of the community. Broader gaps—such as a lack of tested, effective resources that address a particular risk or protective factors were then identified.

How to use this report

The Resource Assessment Report is intended to help participants at the Community Planning workshop develop the Chippewa County *Communities That Care* Community Action Plan. Participants developing the Community Action Plan should use this report to:

- select tested, effective programs, policies, and practices to fill identified gaps.
- formulate systems-change strategies to expand or enhance existing tested, effective resources; and to
- reduce overlap and duplication in existing tested, effective resources.

Report overview

The next sections of the report provide detailed information about the community's resources and gaps, organized by priority risk factors. The conclusion presents a summary of the resources and gaps, along with recommendations for future action.

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Risk Factor: Low Commitment to School

Low commitment to school means that a child no longer sees the role of student as meaningful and rewarding. Young people who have lost this commitment to school are at higher risk for substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout, and violence.

Relevant resources

Currently, there are no community resources that address the risk factor *Low Commitment to School*, that are tested and proven effective.

One tested and effective program has not been previously identified as addressing *Low Commitment to School* may be shown to be effective in addressing this risk factor soon. *Positive Action* has been implemented historically in grades three through five by the Sault Tribe, but at this time, they do not have anyone able to provide these classes. Hopefully, in the future, this program can come back.

Survey information also revealed resources that meet some assessment criteria but have not participated in a formal evaluation:
Michigan Model, Life Skills Training, MSU-Extension, and Boys and Girls Club.

Gaps, issues and barriers

No data was available at this time regarding the numbers or ages of Chippewa County community youth currently being served by the Boys and Girls Club. An employee of the organization stated that the Boys and Girls Club has identified students in the Chippewa County area who would benefit from the program, who are not being served due to a lack of mentors. It should also be noted that for the Boys and Girls Club to address the risk factor of Low Commitment to School, the mentors need to be trained to specifically address this factor with the students and to have programming with outcomes that are tested and effective with our priority risk factors in mind. It is unknown if Low Commitment to School is one of the focus areas currently included in the local Boys and Girls Club program. There are currently three Boys and Girls Clubs operating in Chippewa County.

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Risk Factor: Low Perceived Risk of Drug Use

Young people who do not perceive drug use to be risky are far more likely to engage in drug use. Communities with youth who, as individuals, lack the perceived risk of drug use or have friends who demonstrate a lack of knowledge of the perceived risk of drugs, show higher rates and earlier initiation of drug use.

Relevant resources

Life Skills Training has been implemented in Chippewa County for students at Sault Area Middle School in grades six through eight and Sault Area High School in 10th-grade Health. The Sault Area Public Schools received a grant to implement this program into their health classes.

Survey information also revealed resources that meet some assessment criteria, are recognized as valuable in our community, but have not participated in a formal evaluation under Blueprints:

Michigan Model, 4-H Health Rocks, and Boys and Girls Club

Gaps, issues and barriers

Positive Action is currently not implemented in any schools within Chippewa County. The Tribe would like to begin implementing it again, but does not have anyone trained in that position at this time.

4-H Health Rocks is being implemented in one school in Chippewa County and, hopefully, expanded into other schools in the coming years. While this is not a Blueprint Program, studies show its effectiveness in increasing students' perception of harm when using substances.

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Risk Factor: Parents' Attitudes Favoring Antisocial Behaviors

In families where parents use illegal drugs, are heavy users of alcohol, or are tolerant of children's use, children are more likely to become drug abusers during adolescence. The risk is further increased if parents involve children in their drug or alcohol use behaviors, for example, asking the child to light the parents' cigarette or getting a parent a beer from the fridge.

Relevant resources

Currently, there are no community resources that address the risk factor, *Parents' Attitudes Towards Anti-Social Behaviors*, that are tested and proven effective.

Gaps, issues and barriers

Guiding Good Choices is tested and effective in helping with this risk factor. Historically, Chippewa County Communities That Care provided these classes, but currently does not have anyone trained in this program. They hope in the future to be able to bring these classes back to the area.

Conclusions

The Chippewa County Community's Tested, Effective Resources

The Coalition is pleased to report that:

- Although there are only two tested, effective resources in the Chippewa County area that address the two prioritized risk factors, many untested programs are available and are working to reduce Low Commitment to School and Perceived Risk of Drug Use, as well as increase the protective factor Rewards for Prosocial Involvement that buffer against these risks.
- The Chippewa County Communities that Care has been working to address risk factors for underage drinking and illicit drug use, suicide prevention awareness, and vaping, and utilizing tested, effective resources. It has funding for one year



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and is likely to receive continued funding in the next grant cycle if the programs are shown to be effective in the community.

Resource gaps

The following gaps are present in Chippewa County's community's current youth-development and prevention efforts that focus on youth and families of youth in 6th through 12th grade, and should be addressed by the Community Action Plan:

Low Commitment to School

- If *Positive Action* is delivered in Chippewa County, within multiple elementary schools throughout the county, we could see an increased commitment to school by students who receive this program.
- Boys and Girls Club is being implemented in three of our schools, but currently, we do not know if this risk factor is being addressed within these organizations.

Perceived Risk of Harm of Substances

- The coalition identified only one tested, effective resource in the community that is working to reduce this risk factor. It is only taught in one school locally at this time, by teachers trained in Botvin's Life Skills Training. This program, if expanded, could decrease this risk factor significantly.
- Also, we discovered a program called Health Rocks, delivered by the MSU Extension 4-H Coordinator. While there are studies showing this is an effective program in increasing the perceived risk of substances, it is not considered a tested and effective program in Blueprints.

Parents' Attitudes Favorable Towards Anti-Social Behaviors

- If Guiding Good Choices were able to be funded and implemented with fidelity within the community, we could see a decrease in this risk factor.

Recommendations and next steps

The next step in the *Communities That Care* process is to create a Community Action Plan. This report offers the following recommendations for the Chippewa County *Communities That Care* Community Action Plan:

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- Work with the local Boys and Girls Club organization to find out if their implementation of the program addresses Low Commitment to School. If so, the Chippewa County Communities That Care should support their work wherever possible.
- Work with the Sault Tribe to determine the ability to implement Positive Actions in as many schools as possible.
- Supplement resources that address the risk factor Low Commitment to School, with tested, effective programs, policies, and practices, recognizing that there are limited tested, effective resource options available that do not operate in the school domain.
- Select additional tested, effective programs, policies, and practices that address the risk factor, Perceived Risk for Drug Use and Parents' Attitudes Favorable Towards Anti-Social Behaviors.
- When considering any programs for implementation in the Chippewa County Community, special consideration should be given to those that increase recognition for Rewards Prosocial Involvement in the community and school domains.