

PREVENTION FIRST 

FY25

Annual Report

• ADVISE • AMPLIFY • ADVOCATE

EVERY DECISION MATTERS.

Letter From Our Board Chair and CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Reflecting on the past year, we proudly highlight the impact of our programs and services as presented in this Annual Report. Every achievement showcases the passion and dedication of our staff, the trust and partnership of our funders, and the unwavering support of our community collaborators and stakeholders.

In FY25, Prevention First continued to expand its impact across Illinois through high-quality training, informational resources, and technical assistance focused on addressing substance use, violence, and suicide. This year, we were selected as Illinois' statewide Opioid and Trauma Training and Assistance Center (OTTAC) provider, marking a significant expansion of our leadership in prevention and public health. This milestone positions our organization at the forefront of strengthening the state's capacity to address opioid use disorder, trauma-informed care, prevention workforce development, and culturally responsive practices.

A major highlight of the year was launching our first Connections in Prevention Annual Conference,

which brought together professionals working in substance misuse, violence prevention, suicide prevention, mental health advocacy, and related fields. The conference provided a lively and engaging platform for over 200 prevention professionals to collaborate, learn, and share best practices through keynote speeches, workshops, and networking opportunities.

Given our expansion over the past several years, we also revisited our mission, vision, and values to reflect our commitment to serving all communities and fostering an organizational culture that supports all staff in their efforts to serve. Our mission – to equip communities with resources and support to build pathways that prevent substance misuse and promote safety and lasting well-being for all through training, education, and partnerships – guides our work toward the impact described in this report.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated partners, funders, advocates, and allies. Thank you for believing in our mission and walking alongside us. Your support fuels our work and motivates us every day to build a stronger, healthier Illinois.

With gratitude,



Jill Grove
Board Chairperson



Karel Homrig
Chief Executive Officer

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Board of Directors

FY25



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IAN
BARR
Member
City of Chicago

About Us

Our Mission

At Prevention First, our approach to creating healthier communities across Illinois rests on three foundational actions that work in concert to drive lasting change: **Advise, Amplify, and Advocate**. Together, these pillars represent our commitment to not just preventing substance use and promoting mental health, but to building a sustainable infrastructure of support that empowers organizations, individuals, and communities to thrive.

These pillars in action have demonstrated impact across our communities.

OUR MISSION

We equip communities with resources and support to build pathways that prevent substance misuse and promote safety and lasting well-being for all through training, education, and partnerships.



We know that for those in need, what matters most is not showing up occasionally but consistently. Grand gestures don't change the world; small decisions backed by firm commitments do. We exist to share a simple mantra with the world that every decision matters.

OUR 3 FOCUS AREAS

ADVISE - We work with organizations that actively promote healthy behaviors so they can be effective in their missions.

AMPLIFY - Through training and ongoing education, we work with individuals who deliver prevention services, so they are equipped and confident to best support clients, schools, and communities.

ADVOCATE - We take an active role in addressing prevention areas of need through public awareness campaigns, resource centers, special initiatives, conferences, and networking events.



From peer pressure to job stressors, from the classroom to the corner office, the stakes have never been higher for our youth, our families, and our communities. With so much on the line, Prevention First works tirelessly with individuals and groups throughout Illinois to make an impact both directly and indirectly with our programs and training.

ADVISE

Through our Advise Focus areas, Prevention First serves as a trusted partner and expert resource for organizations across Illinois and beyond, guiding them toward evidence-based strategies that create real impact. Through our comprehensive training programs, from classroom-based sessions to virtual workshops to asynchronous learning options, we equip our audience and community leaders with the knowledge and tools they need to transform their communities. Our commitment to diverse learning strategies ensures that every organization we touch gains not just information, but the practical expertise to implement lasting change.

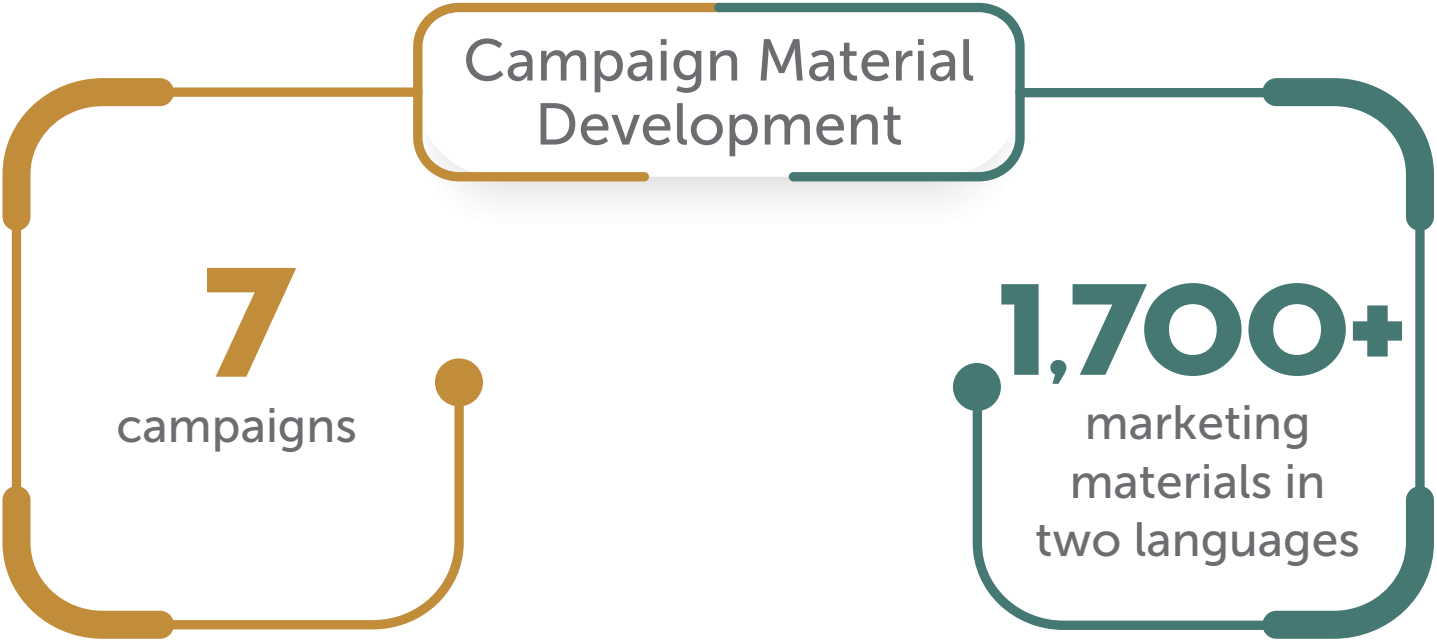


INITIALLY, MY GOAL IN SEEKING TA WAS TO OBTAIN 'THE ANSWER. THE TTA STAFF LISTENED MINDFULLY TO HELP US THINK THROUGH OPTIONS AND LAND ON A PLAN FOR EXPLORING THE POSSIBLE WORKAROUNDS.

- TA RECIPIENT

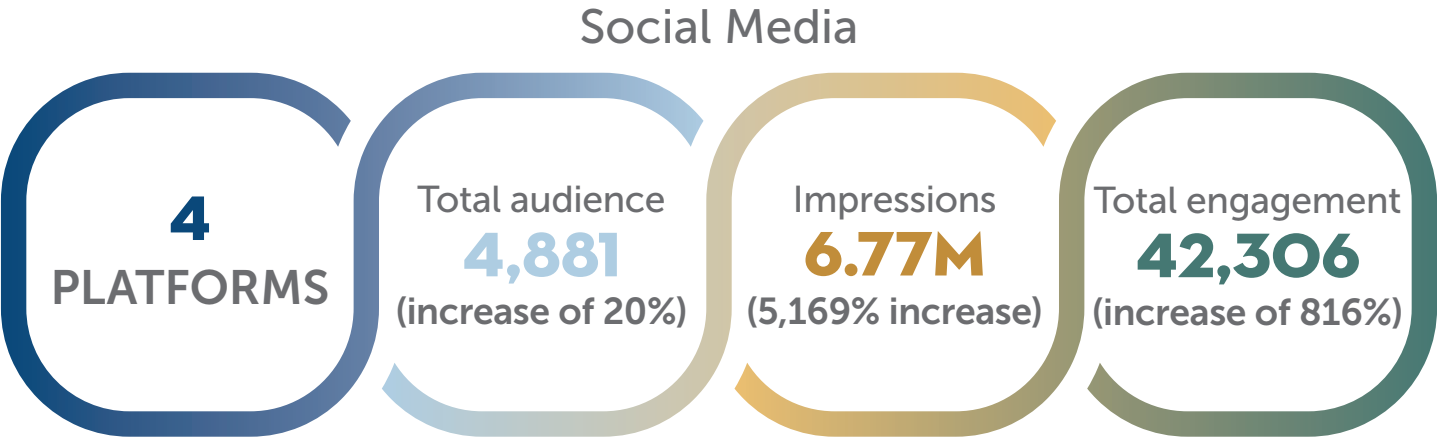
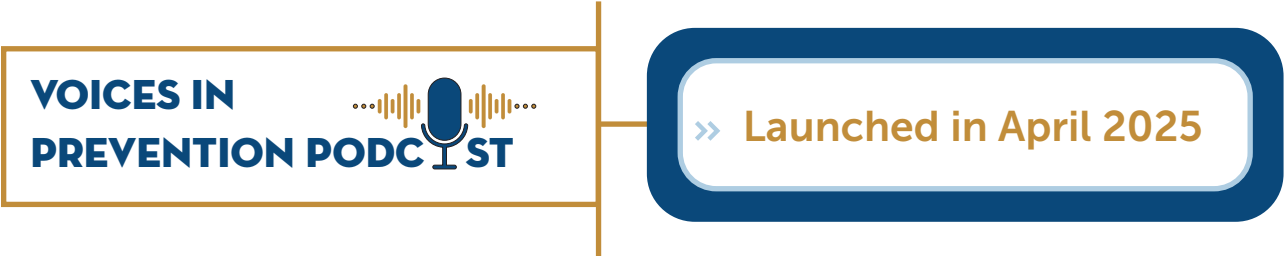
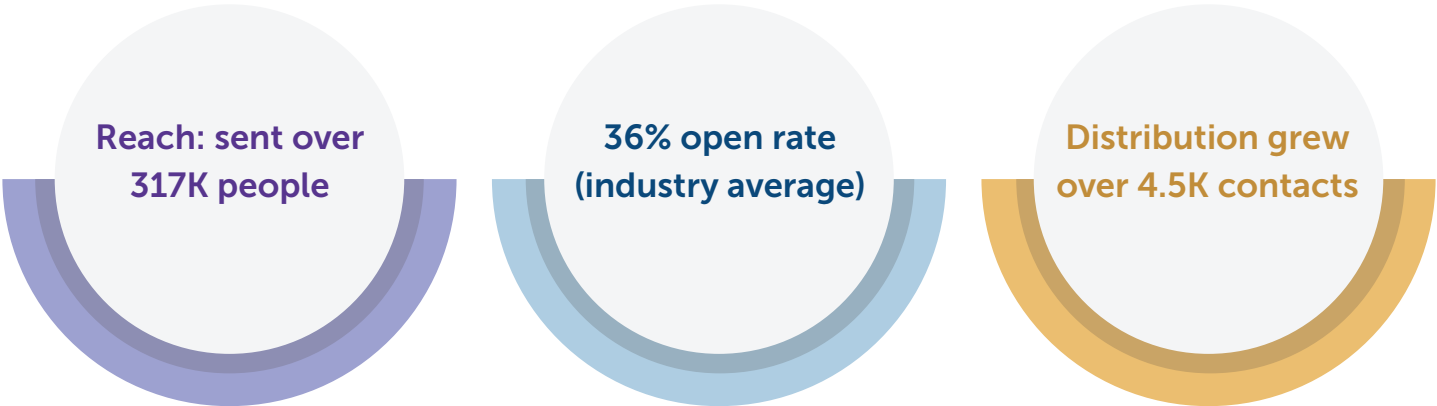
AMPLIFY

Through our Amplify focus areas, Prevention First helps multiply the impact of prevention efforts across Illinois by equipping providers with professional-grade tools and resources they need to reach their communities effectively. From developing comprehensive media campaigns to maintaining resource libraries and distributing timely information through our newsletters and social media, we ensure that every prevention professional has access to high-quality, evidence-based materials.



Agencies that use campaign materials designed by Prevention First and used by professionals in Illinois communities: **53** agencies use our materials for **78** campaigns in approximately **193** schools in Illinois.

Newsletter Distribution - monthly and quarterly newsletters from agency and programs:



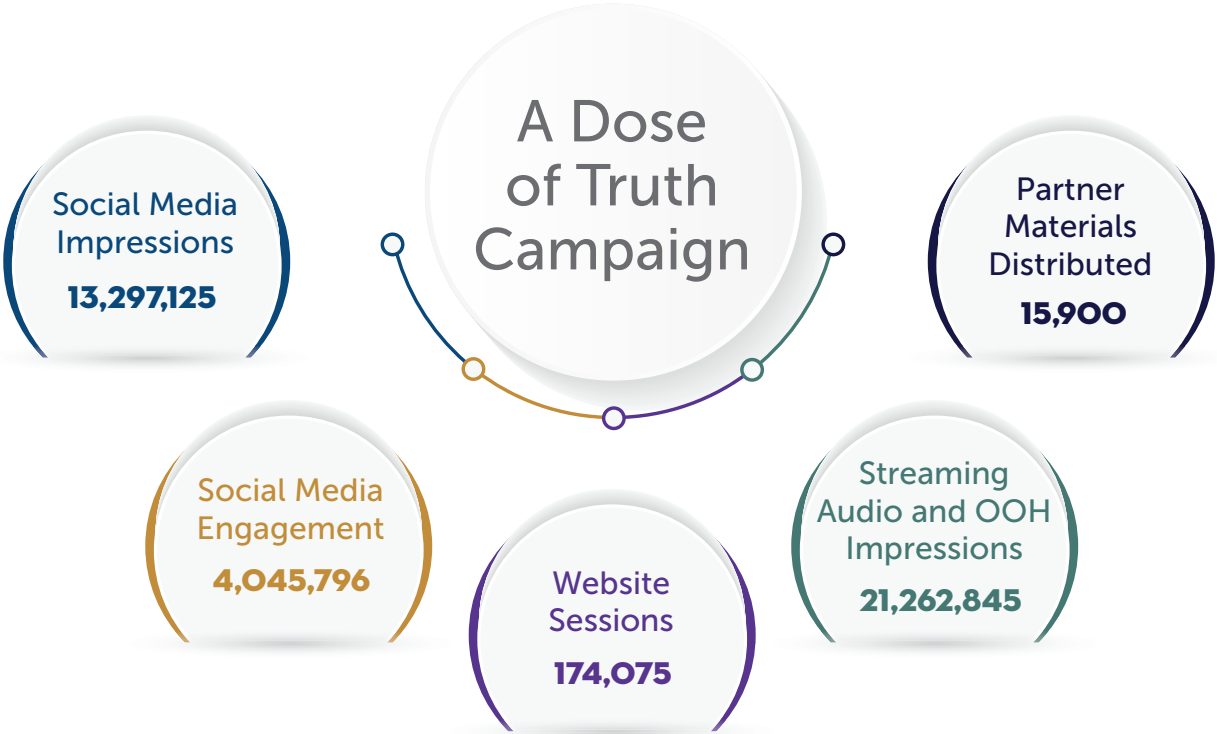
“THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SUCCESSES HAVE BEEN HEARING MORE CONVERSATIONS FROM STUDENTS ABOUT WHAT THE POSTERS OR NEWSLETTERS ARE FOR AND HAVING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THEM.”

- PREVENTION SPECIALIST

ADVOCATE

Through our Advocacy focus areas, we help move the pursuit of lasting prevention change beyond individual interventions. We help shift conversations and raise awareness at every level of society. Through strategic public campaigns, dynamic conferences, and targeted initiatives, we ensure that prevention stays visible, vital, and valued. Our work creates the conditions where prevention can thrive, connecting diverse stakeholders and elevating the voices of those working to build healthier communities.

Public Awareness Campaign

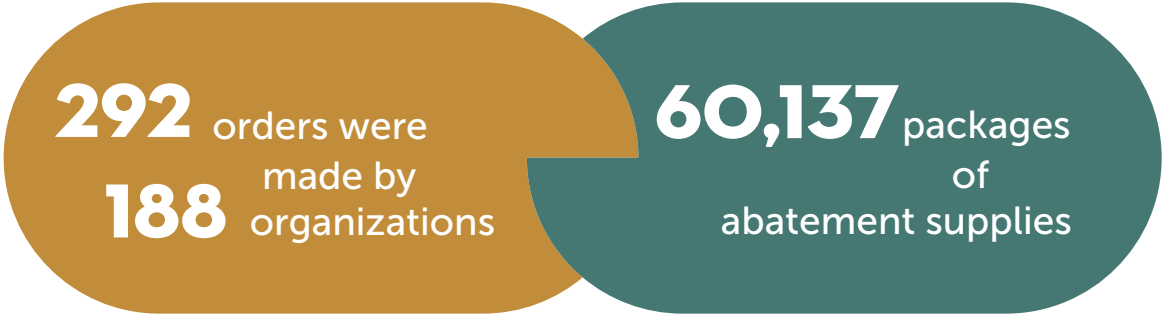


Connections In Prevention (CIP) Conference



- 100% of respondents responded that they will use the information from the conference in their work.
- 100% of respondents responded that their expectations were met and will recommend to others to attend.

COVID Mitigation Supplies Program



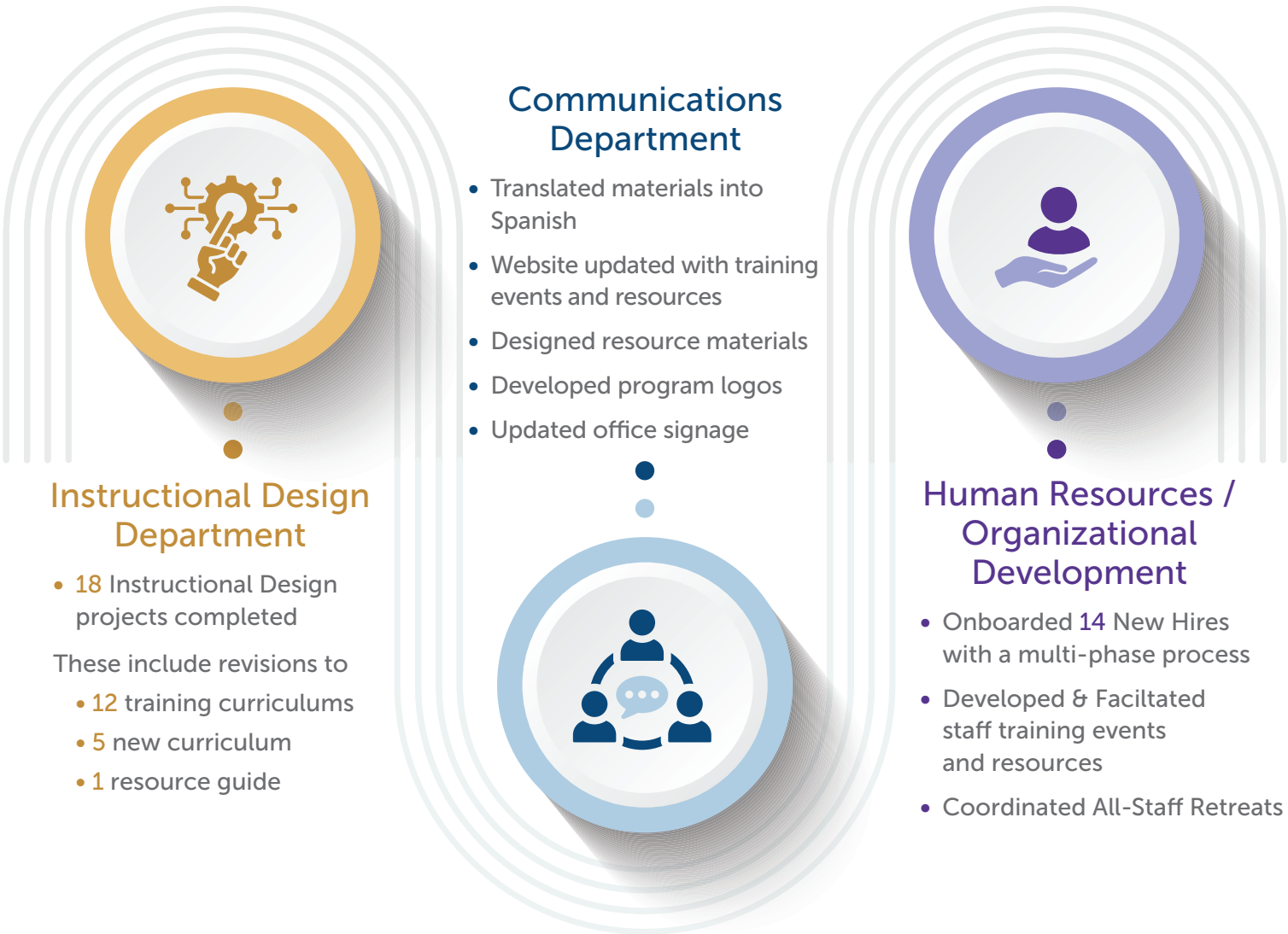
Chicago Strategic Action Council -
23 partner organizations throughout Chicago
Four targeted workgroups developed to move to Chicago Prevention Ecosystem:



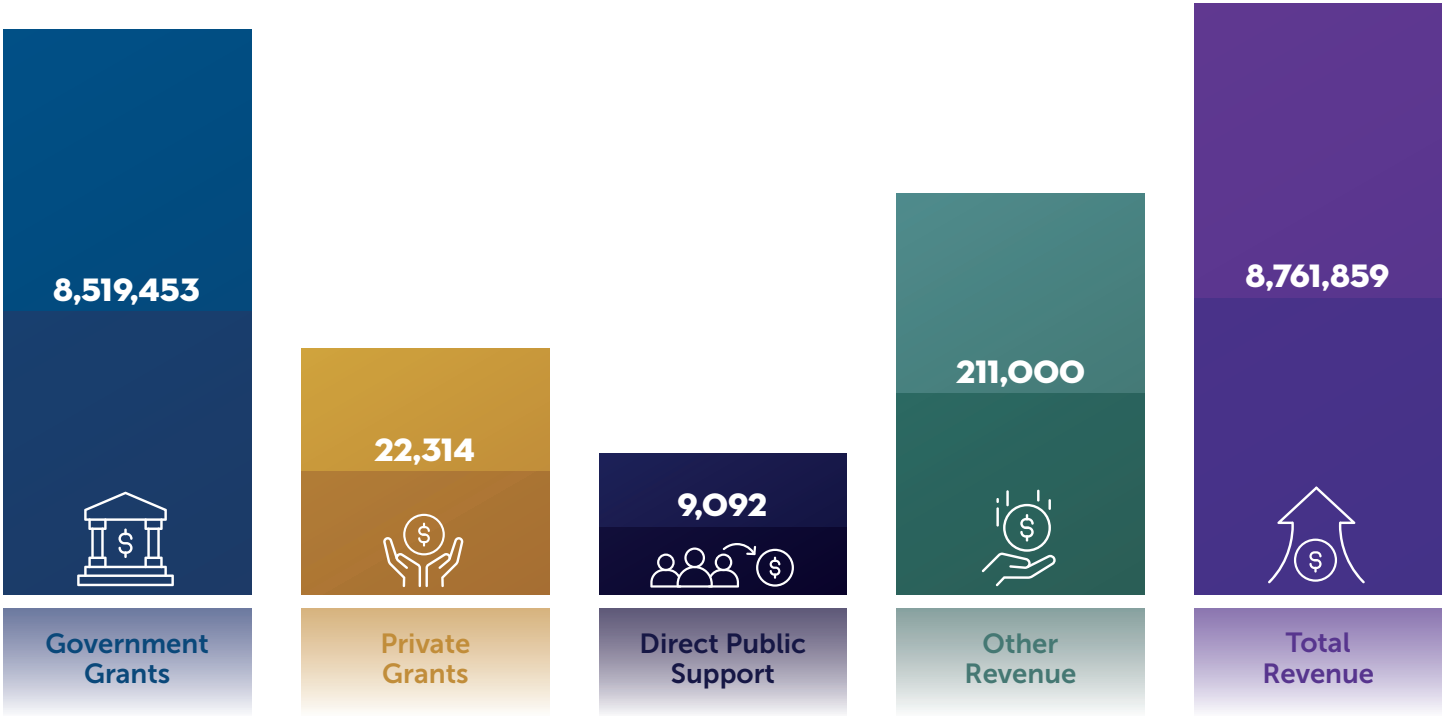
“THE SPEAKERS THAT WERE SELECTED FOR THE SESSIONS WERE GREAT AND RELEVANT. I HAD TROUBLE DECIDING WHICH SESSION TO PICK.”
- CIP CONFERENCE ATTENDEE

Operational Support

The strength of Prevention First lies not just in our programs, but in the seamless integration of expertise that makes our mission possible. Our operational support teams form the essential infrastructure that transforms vision into action. By maintaining robust financial stewardship, innovative learning platforms, seamless technology systems, and strategic communications, these teams work in concert to build the foundation where prevention work thrives. Their behind-the-scenes innovation and dedication create the operational excellence that empowers both our organization and our partners to achieve maximum effectiveness and scale our impact.



Financials



Expenses

Substance Use Prevention Training & Technical Assistance	1,998,109	Community Garden Project	103,155
Substance Use Treatment Training & Technical Assistance	1,182,871	Suicide Prevention	384,010
Resource Centers	790,785	RSP Youth Development Training, TA, & Support	655,041
Substance Abuse Training to Department of Corrections	234,027	Opioid Training & Technical Assistance Center	297,464
Opioid SOR Campaign	909,441	Management & General	1,795,704
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	82,975	Other Supporting Activities	265,840
COVID-19 Mitigation	751,303	TOTAL EXPENSES	9,450,725



OUR
STAFF



EVERY DECISION MATTERS.

All headshots are AI generated

WHERE TO FIND US

Prevention First Headquarters


2800 Montvale Drive | Springfield, IL | 62704

Prevention First Branch Office

33 West Grand Avenue, Suite 300 | Chicago, IL | 60654

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    /PreventionFirst

 800-252-8951

 prevention.org