



Civic, Community, Educational, and Religious Organizations

The practices and policies of community groups are barometers of community norms. In some cases, an organization’s long-standing alcohol policies unintentionally contribute to community alcohol problems even as these groups dedicate themselves to community improvement. When civic groups and faith communities review and adopt policies to discourage alcohol misuse, they improve the quality of community life and make a significant contribution to improving Wisconsin’s alcohol culture. Civic and community organizations include non-profit and philanthropic organizations, bona fide clubs, lodges and societies, county and local fair associations, posts of veteran’s organizations, and chambers of commerce. Educational organizations and institutions include primary and secondary education, further and higher education. Religious organizations include, but are not limited to, churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, nondenominational ministries, interdenominational and ecumenical organizations, mission organizations, and faith-based social agencies.

Recommendation 1: Municipalities work with post-secondary schools.

Lead implementing organizations: Post-Secondary Schools

Purpose: Reduce availability of alcohol; Modify the drinking environment

Municipalities should work collaboratively with local post-secondary schools to limit the number of alcohol outlets near campuses, provide care for dangerously intoxicated individuals and take steps to reduce alcohol-related harassment of marginalized racial, ethnic and other minority groups.

**Cross-listed in: Local Government (Recommendation 2)*

Recommendation 2: Universities and colleges work with the local government.

Lead implementing organizations: Post-Secondary Schools

Purpose: Reduce availability of alcohol

Because alcohol licensing is a municipal issue in Wisconsin, the leaders of Wisconsin’s colleges and Universities should commit to working with local governments to limit the number of alcohol outlets near campus and enforce the minimum legal drinking age. Joint campus-community efforts to fund and deploy evidence-informed and evidence-based interventions including regular alcohol age compliance checks are both effective and sustainable.

**Cross-listed in: Local Government (Recommendation 3)*

Recommendation 3: Colleges, universities, and municipalities should discourage underage and high-risk drinking.

Lead implementing organizations: Post-Secondary Schools

Purpose: Reduce availability of alcohol; Modify the drinking environment

Wisconsin’s colleges, universities, and the municipalities where they are located should take steps to create an environment that discourages underage and high-risk drinking, including adopting the policies and practices included NIAAA’s Alcohol Intervention Matrix for Colleges (CollegeAIM). Many campuses will find the need to support both individual and environmental policies and practices to address excessive and underage alcohol consumption.



Civic, Community, Educational, and Religious Organizations (continued)

Recommendation 4: Schools should implement SBIRT program.

Lead implementing organizations: School Districts

Purpose: Support evidence-based alcohol education; Preventive health care

Schools should implement an evidence-based or evidence-informed individualized screening and brief intervention (SBIRT) program that provides education, support, and guidance for teens and their parents/caregivers/guardians.

**Cross-listed in: State Government and State Agencies (Recommendation 8)*

Recommendation 5: Schools should implement evidence-informed practices to prevent underage drinking.

Lead implementing organizations: School Districts

Purpose: Support evidence-based alcohol education

Both public and private schools should implement long term evidence-informed and evidence-based practices and programs to prevent and reduce underage drinking.

Recommendation 6: Avoid encouraging excessive alcohol consumption at celebrations and fundraisers.

Purpose: Reduce availability of alcohol; Modify the drinking environment; Reduce promotion of alcohol to youth

Knowing the extensive health and safety risks posed by excessive alcohol consumption, community and philanthropic groups should avoid hosting celebrations and fundraisers with a link to alcohol or suggest excessive alcohol consumption. Community professional, religious and civic groups should model low-risk alcohol consumption as a contribution to improved community norms.

When organizing fundraisers, groups should consider strategies to limit alcohol consumption including:

- ❖ Using smaller glasses for individual servings of alcohol.
- ❖ Provide a wide selection of attractive nonalcoholic beverages.
- ❖ Use tickets or tokens to limit alcohol consumption to no more than 2 servings per individual.
- ❖ Post a sign where alcohol is served noting the maximum number of alcohol servings by for low-risk drinking.



Civic, Community, Educational, and Religious Organizations (continued)

Recommendation 7: Schools should provide alcohol harms health effects information to parents, caregivers, and guardians.

Lead implementing organizations: School Districts

Purpose: Support evidence-based alcohol education; Reduce promotion of alcohol to youth; modify the drinking environment

Schools should provide parents, caregivers and guardians with information on the long-term health consequences of underage drinking including, but not limited to: a higher lifetime risk of alcohol or drug abuse; a higher lifetime risk of developing one of the seven cancers linked to alcohol consumption; and the potential for permanent cognitive loss. While some of the acute consequences of underage drinking are well known, information on alcohol's relationship to drowning, falls, vehicular injury and death, alcohol poisoning, gun violence, suicide, and sexual assault should also be provided.

Recommendation 8: Schools should conduct the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Lead implementing organizations: School Districts

Purpose: Monitor and evaluate; Support evidence-based alcohol education

Schools are strongly encouraged to conduct the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) to provide an accurate local measure of youth alcohol and other drug use.

Recommendation 9: Principals, athletic directors, and guidance counselors should attend DITEP every 3 Years.

Lead implementing organizations: School Districts

Purpose: Support evidence-based alcohol education; Engage in preventive health care

Wisconsin school principals, athletic directors, and guidance counselors should be required to attend Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals (DITEP) every three years and become familiar with local referral resources and providers for intervention and treatment services.