

## **Designing A Community MAP: A Workshop on Strategies for Conducting a Community Meth Assessment**

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The methamphetamine problem continues to spread across the country, however, it disproportionately impacts rural and frontier communities and counties. The burden felt by small communities can be overwhelming, and when methamphetamine use is left to run its course unchecked, the consequences can be devastating. Participants in this workshop will learn how their county or community can begin to address this problem by implementing a methamphetamine needs and resource assessment. The community needs and resource assessment helps communities better understand the multifaceted nature of the meth problem in their community and is an effective approach to the first two steps in SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework. It utilizes a rich array of qualitative and quantitative information that is combined with other community and organizational information to develop a comprehensive picture of the methamphetamine problem and the existing resources that can be tapped to combat it. During the first half of the workshop, participants will learn to identify critical community sectors to include in the needs and resource assessment process, know when to use semi-structured interviews and focus groups, and how to gain access to public social indicator data. Participants will then learn to cull the information, extract critical findings, and formulate this information into a working needs and resource assessment report. The second half of the workshop will focus on how needs and resource assessment findings can be orchestrated into a multi-solution community mobilization plan, the third step in the Strategic Prevention Framework. Strategies for mobilization include developing research briefs, identifying "take home" messages for use in press releases, developing effective presentations for stakeholders, and using the data to secure additional funding to support implementation and sustainability of the mobilization plan. Two successful rural community needs and resource assessment projects will be used to illustrate this process.