# Community Project Description

**Community Project:** Connecting Kids to Themselves, Their Families, and Their Communities  
**Lead Agency:** Walla Walla County Department of Human Services  
**Abstract**

Youth and families in Walla Walla County are considered more likely to suffer the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse, based on the measurement of standardized risk factors. Poverty and school dropout rates are significantly above the state average. Risk factors identified were friends who engage in problem behavior, extreme economic and social deprivation, family history of high-risk behavior, favorable attitudes toward drug use, family management problems, availability of drugs, and parental attitudes and involvement. Efforts will focus on a selective population at Pioneer Middle School and College Place Intermediate School and a universal population throughout the county. Additional selective populations will be served in Years Two and Three as programs are replicated.

Recruitment for Parent Navigator program for parents is through schools, churches, social service organizations, and the media in both English and Spanish. The goal is to provide information on healthful alternatives to using drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and other self-defeating behaviors. Life Skills Training, Parent Navigator, and Across Ages were selected based on their ability to mitigate the county risk factors, appropriateness for implementation at target middle schools, and potential for replication throughout the county.

**Partners**
- Children's Home Society  
- City of Walla Walla  
- Community Connections  
- Garrison Middle School  
- John Sager Middle School  
- Pioneer Middle School  
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program  
- Walla Walla Community Network  
- County Juvenile Justice Center  
- County Public Health Department  
- County Sheriff's Office  
- Walla Walla High School  
- Walla Walla H.S. Computer Training  
- Police Department  
- PTSA Council  
- Public Library  
- Walla Walla Public School District 140  
- Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic  
- County DHS Prevention Coordinator  
- YMCA / YWCA  

**Contacts**

**Lead Agency:** Walla Walla County Department of Human Services  
310 West Poplar Street  
Post Office Box 1595  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
*phone:* (509) 527-3278  
*fax:* (509) 527-3219  

**Lead Agency Contact:**  
Debbie Merrell  
(509) 527-3278  
dmerrell@co.walla-walla.wa.us

**Community Project Director:**  
Cindy Widmer  
(509) 527-3278  
cwidmer@co.walla-walla.wa.us

**Fiscal Agency:**  
Walla Walla Human Services  
Margaret Schacht  
(509) 527-3278  
mschacht@co.walla-walla.wa.us

**County Coordinator:**  
Margaret Schacht  
(509) 527-3278  
mschacht@co.walla-walla.wa.us

**Prevention Specialist:**  
Verna Story  
(509) 527-3278  
vstory@co.walla-walla.wa.us

**Regional Administrator:**  
Virginia Almeida  
(509) 225-6196

**Regional Prevention Manager:**  
Sheili Young  
(509) 456-5060  
youngsw@dshs.wa.gov

**SIG Liaison:**  
Steve Brown  
(360) 407-0306  
brownsg@dshs.wa.gov

**Evaluator:**  
Anne Strode  
(509) 382-4478  
strodad@dshs.wa.gov

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(509) 382-4478  
strodad@dshs.wa.gov