

# Washington State Incentive Grant

## Community Project Description

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

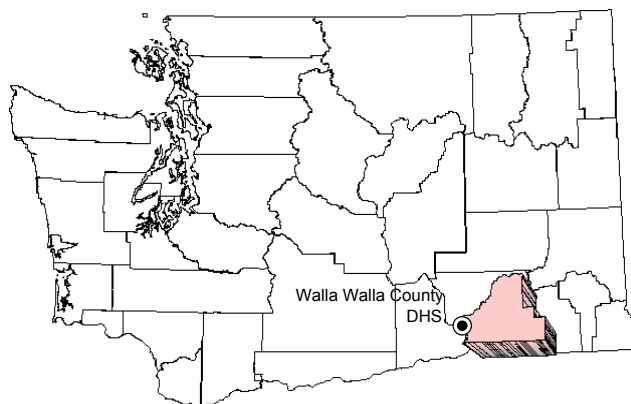
### Abstract

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  
*friends*  
College Place School District #250  
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

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Walla Walla County-Department of Human Services

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