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5.2.2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

5.2.2.1 Introduction

The Communities That Care system is listed in the Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development of the Federal Register as a recognized, community-based prevention framework that supports communities in identifying and addressing the underlying conditions that influence youth outcomes. Its core purpose is to prevent problem behaviors—including substance use, delinquency, school disengagement, and violence—by strengthening protective factors and reducing exposure to risk. Rooted in strong local partnerships and guided by the Strategic Prevention Framework, the CTC Coalition demonstrates strong community engagement, established infrastructure, and SAPST-trained leadership.

The CTC Coalition was formed initially utilizing Brookings Area United Way (BAUW) resources and operates under BAUW administration and fiscal oversight while implementation and strategic direction are guided collaboratively through the CTC Coalition. The CTC Coalition also works with the Brookings County Mental Health Coalition to support and raise awareness around the mental health aspect of risky behavior. This proposal represents a strategic opportunity to scale proven solutions, strengthen protective environments for youth, and deliver measurable, long-term reductions in substance use and improvements in behavioral health outcomes.

The Brookings Communities That Care (CTC) has created a Community Action Plan which outlines a coordinated, evidence-based strategy to promote healthy youth development and mental health awareness while reducing the incidence of risky adolescent behaviors in the Brookings community.

5.2.2.2 Statement of Need

BAUW had secured federal pass-through prevention funding administered through the South Dakota Department of Health to support Communities That Care activities through May 2026. However, in March 2025, the funding was unexpectedly discontinued due to changes in federal funding priorities, creating a \$\$ gap that threatens the continuity of this critical, community-driven prevention effort. Since March 2025, partial support has been secured through local and supplemental funding sources, but additional investment is essential to maintain momentum and avoid disruption as the coalition implements the critical Implementation and Evaluation phase of the framework.

This funding will directly support implementation of targeted strategies and the data collection required to measure outcomes and ensure accountability. Continued investment will allow us to sustain active interventions, track progress, and demonstrate reductions in key risk factors alongside improvements in youth well-being.

5.2.2.3 Project Description

The CTC Framework includes a five-step process of Getting Started, Getting Organized, Developing a Community Profile, Creating a Community Action Plan, and Implementing and Evaluating. Currently, the CTC has completed the first four steps and is engaged in the critical step of Implementing and Evaluating.

The initial steps identified key preventative risks that include addressing Elevated Absenteeism and Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization. The SEARCH Institute results indicated that strengthening Youth Empowerment and Constructive Use of Time would directly impact these risks. The CTC identified prioritizing the expansion of two evidence-based strategies already embedded within the community: Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and the Brookings County Youth Mentoring Program (BCYMP).

This funding will directly support the Action Plan for public awareness campaigns through media and outreach, local business presentations to raise awareness and engagement, continued CTC workgroup support through engagement and training, data collection for evaluation of plan effectiveness, as well as community wide mental health awareness activities.

5.2.2.4 Expected Outcomes

The Action Plan establishes clear, measurable community-level and program-level outcomes aligned with identified priorities and outlines preliminary implementation, evaluation, and funding strategies to support accountability and sustainability. It also emphasizes systems-level coordination, community awareness, and intentional CTC Coalition development to ensure long-term impact.

5.2.2.5 Funding Request

The Communities That Care Coalition is requesting \$\$ for continued prevention activities, supporting workgroup efforts and capacity, and a mental health media campaign to support this critical step of Implementation and Evaluation.

5.2.2.6 Conclusion

The Communities That Care Coalition is an established, community-supported effort to address the issues seen in the youth of Brookings County. Supported and driven by evidence-based data through both the CTC framework and SEARCH Institute results, this program will improve identified protective factors, mental health awareness and overall community awareness of the issues Brookings County youth are facing and further engage community involvement and support. The framework, action plan, and media campaign will work together to strengthen community awareness, engagement and prevention capacity to mitigate the risk factors and increase the preventive factors with the outcome of tangible, effective results shown through increased youth engagement in their schools and community.

Sustainability will be supported through continued coalition development, integration within existing community systems, diversified funding strategies, business engagement, and expansion of volunteer-driven mentoring capacity.

5.2.3 DETAILED RESPONSE

5.2.3.1.1 Introduction

Brookings Area United Way (BAUW) leads a highly collaborative, data-driven approach to substance use prevention and mental health promotion through the evidence-based *Communities That Care (CTC)* framework. The Communities That Care system is listed in the Federal Register as a recognized, community-based prevention framework. The Communities That Care framework supports communities in identifying and addressing the underlying conditions that influence youth outcomes. Its core purpose is to prevent problem behaviors—including substance use, delinquency, school disengagement, and violence—by strengthening protective factors and reducing exposure to risk.

Rooted in strong local partnerships and guided by the Strategic Prevention Framework, with demonstrated community engagement, established infrastructure, and SAPST-trained leadership, the Communities That Care Coalition is uniquely positioned to expand prevention efforts in Brookings County - particularly in underserved areas lacking coordinated prevention resources.

Brookings is uniquely positioned for successful implementation of the Communities That Care framework due to its long-standing use of SEARCH Institute data, strong cross-sector partnerships, engaged educational and healthcare systems, and established prevention infrastructure. The community has demonstrated sustained commitment to collaborative prevention planning and possesses the organizational capacity necessary to implement and sustain evidence-based strategies over time.

BAUW initiated the Communities That Care process in Fall 2024 with the goal of fostering a community rooted in safety, belonging, and positive relationships that empower youth. Over the course of the planning process, Brookings established a diverse CTC Community Board representing education, health care, human services, law enforcement, local government, business, nonprofit organizations, and parents. Through structured workgroups, community planning workshops, collaboration with the Brookings School District and facilitation by the Brookings Area United Way, the community engaged in a comprehensive, data-driven approach to prevention planning.

Brookings Area United Way began preliminary coalition-building, readiness activities, and stakeholder engagement in early 2024, formally launching the Communities That Care framework in Fall 2024. Since that time, the coalition has completed Phases 1–4 of the CTC model, including community assessment, risk-factor prioritization, and action planning, and began Phase 5 implementation and evaluation activities in 2026, with expanded implementation continuing through the proposed contract period.

These efforts resulted in a Community Action Plan that focused on expanding two established evidence-based programs within the community, developing a Youth Advisory Board, and coordinating a community-wide mental health awareness campaign with the Brookings County

Mental Health Coalition. This plan also outlines continued evaluation efforts, tangible goals to measure and achieve success, and a continuous improvement plan throughout the life of the program.

5.2.3.1.2 Background Information

The SEARCH Institute Student Survey is a nationally recognized youth-development assessment tool that measures developmental assets, protective factors, risk behaviors, school climate, and youth well-being. The survey provides valuable longitudinal data that helps communities identify trends impacting youth outcomes and guide prevention planning efforts.

The SEARCH Institute results have been utilized by the Brookings School District since 1999, giving a significant baseline and context to student conduct, perceptions, and behaviors for over 20 years. The SEARCH Institute testing is administered every three years and is a student self-reported perception data. The last four test results, spanning the last twelve years, have shown a notable decline in community engagement and outside adult influences on youth within the community. This also indicates an increase in risky behaviors such as drug and alcohol use and an increase in mental health issues.

In Fall 2024, Brookings began implementing the Communities That Care (CTC) prevention planning system, developed by Dr. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard Catalano of the Social Development Research Group at the University of Washington. The CTC framework is grounded in decades of prevention science and is designed to help communities prevent youth problem behaviors by addressing the underlying risk factors that increase vulnerability while strengthening the protective factors that promote healthy development.

Research shows that behaviors such as substance use, violence, and school disengagement are predictable and preventable when communities focus on shared risk and protective factors across multiple outcomes. The CTC model provides a structured, evidence-based process for using local data to identify priorities, select proven strategies, and monitor progress over time.

5.2.3.1.3 Need/Problem

The SEARCH Institute results administered by the Brookings School District have identified several key issues that directly correlate to increased risky behavior in youth. Some of the lowest scoring sections of the results involve community relations including: outside adult involvement, neighborhood involvement, engagement in outside activities with other adults, and feeling like a contributing, valued member of the community. These low scores directly correlate with increased risky behaviors including substance abuse and sexual activity and directly impact youth's overall mental health and wellness.

These results actively show that there is a significant gap in community engagement with youth to show support, involvement, and value.

Based on detailed analysis and community feedback, two priority risk factors have been identified:

- Elevated Absenteeism - A notable increase in unexcused absences, particularly at the high school signaling a decline in student presence and potentially broader social-emotional challenges among youth.
- Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization - Indicators suggest that some students experience weak connections to their neighborhood and a perceived lack of cohesion or support, which contributes to risky behaviors and a reduced sense of safety or belonging.

It also revealed that two protective factors in the external asset categories of the SEARCH Institute framework scored extremely low for youth in the Brookings community:

- Youth Empowerment - students reported feeling disconnected from the broader community—unvalued by adults, unsupported by community/neighbors, and lacking opportunities to contribute or participate in decision-making. Indicators suggest, while family and peer support exists, broader community institutions do not effectively engage or affirm youth.
- Constructive Use of Time - A sizable portion of students are not participating in structured activities like sports, clubs, and religious programs that offer mentorship, leadership, and belonging, highlighting a potential missed opportunity to build empowerment among those most in need.

5.2.3.1.4 Approach and Methodology

The Communities That Care framework utilizes a five-phase approach.

1. Phase 1: Get Started
 - a. This phase outlines laying the groundwork. This included raising awareness and readiness for the program. The BAUW secured community buy-in and identified key leaders. Twenty-two individuals have completed the Key Leader Orientation and are committed to the CTC Initiative.
2. Phase 2: Get Organized
 - a. This phase outlines the community coalition organization that guides the CTC process. Thirty-one community board members have completed training in the CTC system, five workgroups were identified and developed, decision-making processes were established, and a vision statement was developed.
 - b. The five workgroups are:
 - i. Funding – Develop strategic funding plan to support programs and action plan
 - ii. Board Maintenance – develop process for recruitment, foster team building, and support action plan
 - iii. Youth Outreach & Involvement – creating Youth Advisory Board; implementation and outreach to youth
 - iv. Data Assessment & Evaluation
 1. PBIS Workgroup– implementation of PBIS goals and evaluation, communication and outreach to community supporting PBIS

2. Mentorship Workgroup- implementation of BCYMP goals and evaluation, communication and outreach to community supporting PBIS
3. Phase 3: Develop a Community Profile
 - a. This phase outlines assessing risks and resources. The 2024 SEARCH Institute was administered to assess risk and protective factors of Brookings High School and Brookings Middle School students. Work groups analyzed community level data, the SEARCH Institute results and took inventory of existing programs. With this information, risk and protective factors were selected as recommendations for the community to prioritize prevention efforts.
 - b. Based on the analysis of data the Risk- and Protective-Factor Assessment Workgroup identified two priority risk factors for focused prevention action:
 - i. Elevated Absenteeism
 - ii. Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization
 - c. Identified two priority protective factors that scored notably low in the external asset categories of the SEARCH Institute framework:
 - i. Youth Empowerment
 - ii. Constructive Use of Time
4. Phase 4: Create a Community Action Plan
 - a. This phase outlines choosing effective, evidence-based programs and policies to address prioritized needs.
 - b. The workgroup identified two existing resources that demonstrate alignment with prevention science and have an established infrastructure, trained staff, and existing reach within the community. The coalition intentionally prioritized expanding existing evidence-based programs rather than creating new initiatives to maximize sustainability, leverage established community trust, reduce implementation barriers, and accelerate measurable impact. By building upon programs already embedded within the community, the coalition can focus resources on expanding reach, increasing participation, and strengthening long-term outcomes.
 - i. Brookings County Youth Mentoring Program (BCYMP) was selected to address the priority risk factor of Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization while strengthening the protective factors of Youth Empowerment and Constructive Use of Time. BCYMP provides structured, one-to-one and group mentoring relationships between youth and trained adult volunteers. Through consistent, supportive interactions, the program fosters positive relationships, increases youth connection to caring adults, and promotes social, emotional, and academic development. BCYMP emphasizes regular engagement, goal setting, and community involvement, making it well-positioned to enhance youth sense of belonging and meaningful participation within the community.
 - ii. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) was selected to address Elevated Absenteeism and to improve school climate and student engagement across K–12 settings within the Brookings School District. PBIS is a school-wide, evidence-based framework that promotes positive behavior through clearly defined expectations, consistent reinforcement,

and data-informed decision-making. By creating predictable and supportive learning environments, PBIS supports increased student engagement, strengthens relationships between students and school staff, and contributes to improved attendance and academic outcomes. The existing implementation of PBIS within the district provides a strong foundation for expansion and alignment with community-level prevention goals.

- c. Within each of these resources, actions and goals were identified and outlined to increase impact and outreach within the community.
 - i. BCYMP Actions:
 - 1. Conducting six-week public awareness campaign(s) highlighting local mentorship needs
 - 2. Engaging 30 businesses in conversations related to mentorship-supportive policies, including flexible scheduling for volunteer mentors, employee volunteer incentives, sponsorship of mentoring activities and promotion of workplace mentoring opportunities
 - 3. Securing commitments from at least five businesses to adopt mentorship-supportive policies
 - 4. Creating 25 new mentor/mentee matches through business connections in Brookings County
 - 5. Assisting BCYMP with the development and implementation of youth and mentor surveys
 - ii. BCYMP Goals:
 - 1. To increase the number of mentor/mentees matches in Brookings County starting from Spring 2026 to Spring 2028, as measured by BCYMP.
 - 2. To increase the knowledge among businesses of the positive impact youth mentoring has on youth, to increase businesses providing incentives as measured by BCYMP yearly data.
 - iii. PBIS Actions:
 - 1. Reaching at least 50 parents and guardians annually
 - 2. Increasing the visibility of PBIS rewards and current outcomes within the community as they occur
 - 3. Expanding PBIS education through increased materials, presentation frequency, and varied delivery modalities
 - 4. Engaging and expanding PBIS education to additional community-based youth development programs
 - iv. PBIS Goals:
 - 1. To significantly increase community awareness of PBIS practices with parents and organizations as measured by available PBIS resources and number of community presentations annually.
- d. The CTC Coalition has a Youth Outreach and Involvement workgroup with actions and goals:
 - i. Youth Outreach and Involvement Actions:

1. Collaborate with local organizations to establish a formal awards program that recognizes exceptional youth within the Brookings community.
 2. Create a Youth Advisory Board
 - a. Will identify and nominate outstanding youth volunteers through the Volunteer United Program.
 - b. Promote and identify local, applicable volunteer opportunities
 - c. Give substantive feedback and insight to CTC coalition concerning programs effectiveness and opportunities for improvement
 3. Create Networking and Community Events to foster engagement and access to professional networks, community leaders, and community engagement.
- e. Phase 5: Implement and Evaluate
- i. This phase expands and supports the identified programs and evaluates their impact over time. Milestones include evidence-based programs, ongoing monitoring of progress and outcomes, and continuous quality improvement through data-informed decision-making.
 1. Outcomes identified as measurable results:
 - a. Improve youth empowerment in the first year as measured by pre- and post- surveys of participating youth, with the long-term goal of increasing the survey baseline from 30% to 40% by spring of 2030.
 - b. Reduce the percentage of students reporting not engaging in meaningful use of free time, from a baseline of 30% to 20% by the spring of 2030.
 - c. Reduce absenteeism from 6.7% at the Middle School to 5.36% by spring of 2030.
 - d. Reduce absenteeism from 8.31% at the High School to 6.65% by spring of 2030.

After completion of the Implementation and Evaluation phase, the process returns to the third phase of Developing a Community Profile based on the Evaluation results. The success of the program should indicate that different risk factors are identified for another Community Action Plan, Implementation, and Evaluation.

Research consistently demonstrates a strong relationship between youth mental health challenges, social isolation, and increased risk of substance use initiation. Strengthening protective factors such as belonging, connection to community, awareness of available supports, and positive coping skills can reduce vulnerability to both mental health crises and substance use. For this reason, the Brookings CTC Community Board integrates mental health promotion strategies alongside substance use prevention efforts to support overall youth well-being.

Another aspect and action within this evaluation is to address raising mental health awareness within the community. The Brookings Area United Way through the Brookings County Mental Health Coalition has outlined a media campaign to support this effort:

1. Stronger Together Activities in May and September
 - a. Every Door Direct Mail for awareness
 - b. Chalk the Walk Materials
 - c. Family Fun Bash
2. Brookings Billboards campaign
 - a. Promoting Stronger Together Events
 - b. Promoting Mental Health Awareness
 - c. Promoting Suicide Prevention Month
3. Print Campaign
 - a. Running monthly ads in all three local print media outlets promoting Mental Health Resources and community events.

The Brookings Communities That Care (CTC) Community Action Plan is grounded in local data, community strengths, and prevention science. It focuses on priority risk and protective factors identified through the community assessment process and outlines a coordinated approach to improving youth outcomes across schools, families, neighborhoods, and community systems. The plan builds on existing resources while identifying gaps and barriers, emphasizing the use of tested, effective programs, policies, practices, and systems-level strategies to strengthen coordination, expand reach, and support sustainability.

The plan establishes clear community-level and program-level outcomes to guide implementation, evaluation, and funding decisions. These outcomes provide a framework for monitoring progress, ensuring accountability, and supporting continuous improvement. Through this Community Action Plan, Brookings CTC creates a shared roadmap for collaboration and collective impact, strengthening the community's capacity to promote positive youth development and prevent problem behaviors over time.

5.2.3.1.5 Resources and Capacity

The Resources Assessment and Evaluation Workgroup assessed youth-development and prevention resources currently available in the Brookings community. This assessment focused on identifying existing programs, policies, and procedures that address the prioritized risk and protective factors and evaluating the extent to which these resources are evidence-based, widely implemented, and accessible to youth and families.

The resources identified with having the most evidence-based, tested and effective programs that addressed the risk factors were the Brookings County Youth Mentoring Program and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. These programs have an established infrastructure, trained staff, and existing reach within the community. Their outreach has been limited by funding and subsequent capacity. The CTC is committed to leveraging the coalition resources, funding and capacity to expand these programs and their outreach.

5.2.3.1.6 Expected Outcomes and Evaluation Plan

Through the increased protective factors of additional mentor/mentee matches, increased community awareness and enablement of positive social interactions with youth and adult role models and leadership through the BCYMP program, PBIS, and activities and feedback through the Youth Advisory Board, this program will show through the following statistics during subsequent SEARCH Institute results:

Improve youth empowerment in the first year as measured by pre- and post- surveys of participating youth, increasing the survey baseline from 30% to 40% by spring of 2030.

Reduce the percentage of students reporting not engaging in meaningful use of free time, from a baseline of 30% to 20% by the spring of 2030.

Reduce absenteeism from 6.7% at the Middle School to 5.36% by spring of 2030.

Reduce absenteeism from 8.31% at the High School to 6.65% by spring of 2030.

Shorter term evaluations will be monitored through the SEARCH Institute results in the interim, as well as consistent, substantive feedback from the Youth Advisory Board, and through pre- and post- evaluation surveys administered by the BCYMP participants in the program.

5.2.3.1.7 Budget Integration

The Budget Request for the Substance Use Prevention is outlined as follows:

5.2.3.1.8 Partnerships and Collaboration

Community involvement is a cornerstone of the Brookings Communities That Care (CTC) process. The Brookings CTC Community Board is intentionally structured to reflect a broad cross-section of the community, ensuring that prevention planning is informed by diverse perspectives and shared ownership. Board membership includes representatives from public and private sectors across the community to ensure a comprehensive organizational plan and resources to implement.

The CTC Coalition consists of representatives of the following organizations and businesses: Brookings Area United Way, Brookings School District, Brookings High School, Brookings Middle School, First Bank & Trust, Brookings Regional Growth Alliance, Brookings Avera Clinic, Brookings Sanford Health, Brookings County Youth Mentoring Program, City of Brookings Police Department, Brookings County State's Attorney's Office, Brookings Health System, City of Brookings, Brookings Behavioral Health and Wellness, Center for Prevention of Child Maltreatment, Brookings Area Habitat for Humanity, South Dakota State University Miller Wellness Center Counseling, South Dakota State University Pharmacy Department, Brookings Boys and Girls Club & Teen Center, Brookings County Sheriff's Office, Falcon Plastics, Larson Manufacturing, Children's Museum of South Dakota, First Lutheran Church Brookings, Margo's Place, Inter-lakes Community Action Partnership, and the Great After School Place.

5.2.3.2 RFP RESPONSES

5.2.3.2.1 SERVICES

The Communities That Care Coalition is an evidence-based prevention framework proven to reduce youth alcohol, marijuana, and other substance use by targeting shared risk and protective factors. CTC strengthens protective factors such as family attachment, school commitment, and prosocial involvement, while reducing risk factors including favorable attitudes toward substance use, early initiation, and community disorganization.

CTC operates through a structured, data-driven process that includes youth survey data analysis, prioritization of local risk factors, and selection of tested, evidence-based programs matched to community need. Programming dosage varies by selected interventions but is delivered with fidelity according to each model's requirements.

Programming Dosage examples include:

- Six-week public awareness campaign highlighting local mentorship needs
- Engaging 30 businesses in conversations to support mentorship policies
- Reaching at least 50 parents and guardians annually to raise PBIS awareness
- Increasing visibility of PBIS rewards as they occur
- Monthly meetings of the full CTC Board and workgroups to ensure continued efforts and accountability
- Billboard Campaign (February, May, September) for mental health awareness and events
- Every Door Direct Mail highlighting resources
- Chalk the Walk (September)
- Family Fun Bash (September)
- Monthly print ads highlighting mental health resources and events

BAUW employs a trained CTC Facilitator who is certified in the Center for Communities That Care Framework and the *Strategic Prevention Framework Application for Prevention Success Training (SAPST)* and ensures all coalition partners and program implementers receive appropriate onboarding and ongoing training. Outcome data from national CTC evaluations demonstrate significant reductions in substance use initiation and improved behavioral health outcomes, which BAUW mirrors through local data collection and continuous quality improvement.

5.2.3.2.2 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Communities That Care Coalition is currently in Phase 5 of the CTC model: *Implementation and Evaluation*. Existing programming will be expanded to intentionally integrate both substances use prevention and mental health promotion by selecting evidence-based programs that address co-occurring risk and protective factors.

Over the contract period, the Communities That Care Coalition will:

Expand implementation of the Brookings County Youth Mentorship Program (BCYMP) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) in priority areas identified through local data results, utilize the Youth Advisory Board for feedback and engagement analysis, and coordinate efforts with the Brookings County Mental Health Coalition for a mental health awareness campaign.

These actions include:

- Conducting six-week public awareness campaign(s) highlighting local mentorship needs
- Engaging 30 businesses in conversations related to mentorship-supportive policies.
- Securing commitments from at least five businesses to adopt mentorship-supportive policies
- Creating 25 new mentor/mentee matches through business connections in Brookings County
- Assisting BCYMP with the development and implementation of youth and mentor surveys
- Reaching at least 50 parents and guardians annually
- Increasing the visibility of PBIS rewards and current outcomes within the community as they occur
- Expanding PBIS education through increased materials, presentation frequency, and varied delivery modalities
- Engaging and expanding PBIS education to additional community-based youth development programs
- Collaborate with local organizations to establish a formal awards program that recognizes exceptional youth within the Brookings community.
- Creating a Youth Advisory Board
- Create Networking and Community Events to foster engagement and access to professional networks, community leaders, and community engagement.
- Billboard Campaign (February, May, September) for mental health awareness and events
- Every Door Direct Mail highlighting mental health resources
- Support and Host Chalk the Walk Event
- Support and Host Family Fun Bash Event
- Monthly print ads highlighting mental health resources and events

This work aligns directly with the *Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)* by:

- **Assessment:** Utilizing the CTC Youth Survey, SEARCH Institute Results, and local data
- **Capacity:** Engaging a diverse, multi-sector coalition including a Youth Board
- **Planning:** Prioritizing data-driven risk/protective factors
- **Implementation:** Delivering evidence-based programs with fidelity
- **Evaluation:** Monitoring outcomes and adjusting strategies

5.2.3.2.3 TARGET POPULATION

The Communities That Care framework convenes a robust coalition serving Brookings County, with strong partnerships across schools, healthcare systems, mental health providers, law

enforcement, local government, and community-based organizations. This coalition represents a comprehensive, community-wide approach to prevention.

The primary target population is youth ages 12–18, with indirect impact on families and the broader community. The Brookings School District serves approximately 1810 students across middle and high school settings, providing a strong infrastructure for broad prevention reach. The Communities That Care Coalition prioritizes early intervention to delay initiation of substance use and strengthen protective environments.

5.2.3.2.4 TRAINING NEEDS

BAUW maintains a strong foundation in prevention training through SAPST-certified leadership. Ongoing training needs include:

- Advanced CTC coaching and fidelity monitoring
- Evidence-based program-specific trainings as new programs are selected
- Cultural competency and trauma-informed approaches
- Continued professional development for Prevention Specialist certification

BAUW is committed to ensuring all staff and partners meet or exceed state requirements and remain current with best practices.

5.2.3.2.5 ACCREDITATION STATUS

BAUW is an accredited prevention provider through the South Dakota Department of Social Services and will maintain accreditation in good standing in accordance with ARSD § 67:61. BAUW is fully committed to compliance with all applicable rules and standards governing substance use disorder prevention services.

5.2.3.2.6 PERSONNEL

BAUW's prevention efforts are led by a trained CTC Facilitator with SAPST certification and expertise in coalition building, data analysis, and program implementation. The team will be supported by a student employee to expand capacity for outreach, coordination, and evaluation activities.

All personnel meet or exceed the requirements outlined in ARSD 67:61:05:04 and possess competencies in needs assessment, strategic planning, implementation, evaluation, and community mobilization.

5.2.3.2.7 REFERRAL PROCESS

BAUW maintains strong relationships with local behavioral health providers and understands the full continuum of care, including prevention, early intervention, outpatient treatment, and crisis services.

Youth identified through programming or partner referrals as needing additional support are connected to appropriate services through established referral pathways with schools, healthcare providers, and mental health agencies. Determination of need is guided by screening tools, professional judgment, and collaboration with parents and partner organizations.

5.2.3.2.8 QUALITY ASSURANCE

BAUW is committed to implementing all evidence-based programs with fidelity and in collaboration with the Division of Behavioral Health. Quality assurance processes include:

- Regular fidelity monitoring and program checklists
- Ongoing training and technical assistance
- Continuous feedback loops with coalition partners
- Data-driven decision-making to refine implementation

5.2.3.2.9 DATA AND PROGRAM OUTCOMES

BAUW collects and analyzes both process and outcome data in alignment with Division of Behavioral Health requirements. Key measures include:

- Significantly increase and improve youth empowerment and use of free time by SEARCH Survey results and pre- and post- surveys of participating youth involved in the BCYMP program
- Increase the number of mentee/mentors matches in Brookings County
- Increase knowledge among businesses of the positive impact of youth mentoring has on the youth and the community-at-large with presentations and media awareness
- Increase positive student attitudes towards school and peers as measured by the annual school climate survey
- Increase community awareness of PBIS practices with parents and organizations as measure by available PBIS resources and through community presentations
- Shifted key risk indicators during the next SEARCH Institute Results

The SEARCH Survey serves as a primary evaluation tool, supplemented by program-level data and community indicators. Findings are used to inform continuous improvement, demonstrate impact, and ensure long-term sustainability.

Through this investment, Brookings Area United Way will deepen and expand a proven, community-driven prevention system that delivers measurable results. By leveraging the Communities That Care framework, strong cross-sector partnerships, and commitment to data-informed decision-making, BAUW will continue to reduce youth substance use, strengthen mental health, and build lasting protective factors across communities. This work is designed not only for immediate impact, but for long-term sustainability, embedding prevention into the fabric of the community so that positive outcomes endure well beyond the contract period. BAUW is committed to accountability, collaboration, and achieving meaningful change that improves the health and future of the region's youth and families.