



## Tri-Ethnic Center Stages of Community Readiness

There are nine stages of readiness identified in prevention research with stage one being the least supportive of prevention efforts and stage nine being the most advanced and supportive.

- ◆ **Stage 1: Community Tolerance.** How much do norms tolerate or encourage substance abuse behaviors by, for instance, serving alcoholic beverages at community events like the July 4th celebrations or weddings?
- ◆ **Stage 2: Denial.** Does the community acknowledge that there is a substance abuse problem, or is there little or no recognition of the evident problems?
- ◆ **Stage 3: Vague Awareness.** There is a general belief that a problem exists, but awareness is only linked to one or two incidents.
- ◆ **Stage 4: Preplanning.** There is recognition of the problem, and leaders are identifiable, but there is little planning for ways to address problems and risk factors.
- ◆ **Stage 5: Preparation.** Planning is going on and focuses on practical details; leaders are actively seeking funding.
- ◆ **Stage 6: Initiation.** Enough information is available to justify a prevention program and there is enthusiasm as the program begins.
- ◆ **Stage 7: Institutionalization.** More than one prevention program is running with support and with trained staff; though there may not be permanent funding.
- ◆ **Stage 8: Confirmation/Expansion.** Standard programs are viewed as valuable; new programs are being developed in order to reach out to the populations more at risk. Evaluation of efforts is regular and sophisticated.
- ◆ **Stage 9: Professionalism.** Detailed and sophisticated knowledge of prevalence, risk factors, and program effectiveness exists; programming is tailored to meet special needs and risk factors. Staff members are highly trained.

**Reference:** Edwards, R. W., Jumper-Thurman, P., Plested, B. A., Oetting, E. R., & Swanson, L. (2000). *Community Readiness: Research to Practice. Journal of Community Psychology*, 28 (3), 291-307; National Institute of Drug Abuse, (1997). *Community Readiness for Drug Abuse Prevention: Issues, Tips and Tools*. St. Paul, MN pp 13