



COMMON AGENDA

PART ONE: THE STRATEGIC DIRECTION

WHO WE ARE

The Alliance is a system-shifting network of multiple and diverse partners across Alaska who recognize the impacts of alcohol misuse on individuals and communities. We are personally and professionally committed to working together to address this complex problem in our state.

A system-shifting network is defined as a network of people who are focused on transforming systems so that they work for everyone. View our Guiding Frameworks at alaska-alliance.org/how-we-do-it/guiding-frameworks.

HOW WE DEFINE EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL USE

Excessive alcohol use includes binge and heavy drinking by adults over the age of 21, and any alcohol use by those who are underage or pregnant, and exists on a spectrum from mild to moderate to severe. There are multiple pathways to recovery, requiring interventions and treatments appropriate to the level of severity and impact. While excessive alcohol use is typically defined as use by individuals, we recognize the systemic inequities that perpetuate excessive alcohol use within certain populations. Therefore, whole-system work is required to address excessive use.

OUR VISION FOR COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Community Wellness means to us that our people are healthy and experience overall well being, and no one among us is suffering from the effects of trauma. We all feel like we belong, are connected, are valued, and contribute. We recognize our diverse cultural and personal strengths. We are using healthy

coping mechanisms and good self-care. Our local, geographic communities are thriving and safe. Our lands and waters are as resilient and healthy as our people. We are all adequately resourced to respond to everyone in the community and to help individuals and families who need it. Our regions are connected and sharing ideas, resources, successes, and failures.

OUR MISSION

To engage people and communities as partners, to promote individual and community wellness, and prevent excessive alcohol use and harms in Alaska.

OUR GOALS

To Build Relationships

among and across organizations, efforts, communities, and individuals.

To Build Shared Meaning

about the nature of alcohol misuse, upstream prevention, and community wellness.

To Build Power

for everyone to have what they need to thrive and contribute to the mission, based on where they are and where they sense to go.

THE DIFFERENCE WE CAN MAKE TOGETHER: OUR AUDIENCES

We shape this Common Agenda in recognition of the groups that are impacted by our collective work. We represent, acknowledge, and honor the following:

- ★ Community members, especially:
 - People with lived experience
 - Future generations
 - Our elders and ancestors
 - People from marginalized communities
 - People who want to make a difference

- ★ Prevention professionals in organizations and agencies
- ★ People and organizations who have an impact on the lives of others.
e.g., schools, health care providers, etc.
- ★ Policy makers/People who make governmental and institutional decisions

THE DIFFERENCE WE CAN MAKE TOGETHER: OUR OBJECTIVES

We commit to:

1. Help each other to understand and address the underlying conditions that influence and drive alcohol misuse.
2. Use inclusive and open practices so everyone can participate and connect in meaningful ways, feel a sense of belonging, share stories, validate experiences and insights, and learn from each other.
3. Collect and organize useful, timely, accurate, and meaningful knowledge and evidence on prevention and recovery.
4. Work to reduce stigma to allow our communities to talk openly and compassionately about risks, harms, and behaviors that contribute to excessive alcohol use. Move from conversation to action.
5. Help each other return to a culture of health through practices that restore wellness for all communities, based on respect for cultural differences, even when it is uncomfortable.
6. Provide opportunities for powerful storytelling to influence policies that support community wellness, upstream prevention, and funding that is responsive to community needs.

USING DATA TO UNDERSTAND STRATEGY AND IMPACT

The Alliance recognizes that no one data source provides a complete picture of the assets and challenges within the communities across the state. Therefore, The Alliance is moving forward with a data-based decision-making protocol that places equitable emphasis on statewide population health measures,

localized datasets, and data collected by communities to develop strategy and understand impact.

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It's bringing our own skill sets, talents, and lived experiences to the table. Each person brings a piece of the puzzle. Each person has an answer. Sometimes those answers aren't brought out of someone until a question is asked.

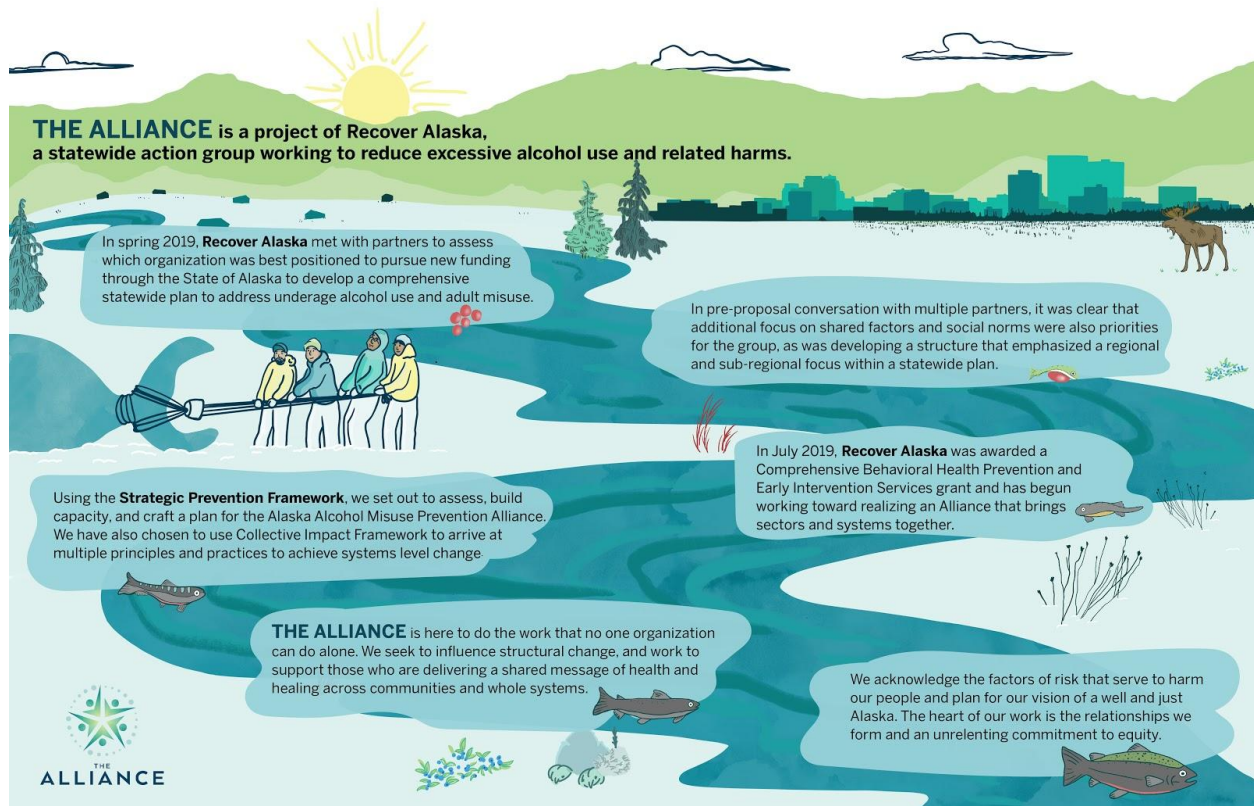
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PART TWO: THE NARRATIVE OF CHANGE

OUR SHARED JOURNEY

The story of our shared journey of learning, research, and development unfolds in [The Alliance's Emergent Strategy: Laying a Strong Foundation for Change](#). First, this narrative frames the problem of excessive alcohol use in Alaska, and the rationale for why we are working together to do the work that no one organization can do alone.

Second, it forms the theory of change for The Alliance – a novel and deliberate approach that seeks to create the conditions for systems change. This is a complex and unpredictable path, so we are using an emergent strategy. This is unlike linear logic models. The learning that has been gleaned so far is organized within the seven core elements of emergent strategy defined by adrienne maree brown.



PART THREE: THE TOOLS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

OUR GUIDE

The Alliance Toolkit for How We Work takes the place of a governance charter. It contains links to the tools and structures developed to date, organized for members who are a part of decentralized decision-making work groups. It is the aim of the Organizational Design Workgroup to facilitate and guide this infrastructure development for distributed governance in the Alliance, ensuring that it is understandable and accessible, and that each of the areas in the Toolkit are being effectively addressed.

ADDITIONAL PLANS AND TOOLS

A coherent Common Agenda is the aim of the Strategy Workgroup. This includes the **Common Agenda Roadmap**, which is a planning tool that can be found in the Toolkit that tracks the emerging strategies for the next year or so to meet The Alliance's objectives. The Strategy Workgroup also aims to develop clear tools and processes that enable all key stakeholders to understand and participate in developing and launching strategies to meet collective objectives.

A key strategy is for the network to develop more connectedness; the **Prevention Landscape Map** is a tool that provides a visual representation of who is involved in the prevention ecosystem and how they connect to the work, so that intentionality can be brought to building relationships.

As they are completed, other specialized plans and tools will be a part of our Toolkit, such as:

- The Evaluation Plan
- The Strategic Communications Plan, held by the Communications Workgroup
- The Resourcing Model for Sustainability