The PATCH (Pottawatomie Alliance Towards Community Health) has been in place since 2007. The PATCH coalition is a community driven partnership that consists of individuals, organizations, agencies, associations and businesses interested in supporting the communities in Pottawatomie County.

The PATCH coalition strives to encompass the whole county in providing services to the Pottawatomie residents. Pottawatomie County is fairly large with its surrounding towns being over twenty minutes away. The PATCH coalition focuses on community collaboration and building strong relationships throughout the county. The coalition has great visions for the future of Pottawatomie County and its citizens. The coalition is eager to look for grants that will assist them in focusing on several health indicators that persist in Pottawatomie County. Pottawatomie County is fairly large county with around 70,000 citizens living here. The County seat is Shawnee, with 13 rural towns surrounding it. Pottawatomie county is home to, two major private colleges; Oklahoma Baptist University and St. Gregory’s University. These two universities are located on the same street, just a mile away from each other.

The Pottawatomie communities are very receptive when it comes to supporting community events. The PATCH coalition has been lucky to have the acceptance and acknowledgement of the rural towns. The PATCH coalition faces normal challenges just like most coalitions when it comes to creating change in small communities. The PATCH coalition has passed 24/7 Tobacco Free Policies in the rural schools. When it comes to major changes for the small communities there will always be a little difficulty, but with perseverance we have seen them overcome the struggle and strive to better the health and wellbeing for their communities.

The City of Shawnee was awarded a grant for being Certified Excellent through the Oklahoma Certified Healthy Communities.
Activities

Legislative Breakfast
Tobacco Retreat
Strategic Planning
Media Campaigns
24/7 No Tobacco Events in the Schools
Reward Reminder Visits
New Substance Abuse Prevention Team
Alcohol Compliance Checks
Kick Butts Day Events
TSET Day at Capitol
Certified Healthy Forum

Outcomes/Impacts

Make It Your Business Symposium
Legislative Breakfast
Tobacco Media Campaign with 6 press releases printed
24/7 NO TOBACCO Policies passes in 4 Schools
5 New SWAT TEAMS Established
Raised Community awareness of Under-age Drinking issues
Reward Reminder Visits
Restoring Local Rights Initiative
Secondhand Smoke Education

Partnerships

Gateway to Prevention
Pottawatomie County Health Department
Department of Human Services
OSU Extension
SPGSIG
Citizens of Pottawatomie Nation
Rave Sound
Sooner SUCCESS
Absentee Shawnee Tribe
COCAA
St. Gregory’s University
Oklahoma Baptist University
Project Safe/Unzer Center
OK Healthcare Authority
Shawnee Youth Coalition
Unity Health Center
Shawnee Public Schools

FUNDING

Gateway To Prevention-Tobacco Grant
Funder: Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust

“16 people die every day due to Tobacco related illnesses”