

PREVENTION FIRST

EVERY DECISION MATTERS.



ADVISE

AMPLIFY

ADVOCATE



ABOUT US

MISSION

Prevention First advances efforts to promote healthy behaviors and prevent substance misuse in every community through a variety of evidence-based and collaborative approaches, including training, support, and public awareness.

VISION

Prevention First is the leading organization for knowledge building and the dissemination of evidence-based prevention strategies. We believe that strategic approaches have most effective paths to building communities and proactively support health and well-being.



ADVISE

We work with organizations that actively promote healthy behaviors so they can be effective in their missions.

AMPLIFY

Through training and ongoing education, we work with individuals who deliver prevention services so they are equipped and confident to best support clients, schools, and communities.

ADVOCATE

We actively address prevention areas of need through public awareness campaigns, resource centers, special initiatives, conferences, and networking events.

RYD TTAS

Reimagine Youth Development
Training & Technical Assistance & Support

Our professional development services include a wide array of training opportunities, learning communities, and resources to assist the professionals we serve and collaborate in effectively planning and implementing appropriate evidence-based or evidence-informed strategies in their respective communities.



Our learning opportunities include interactive in-person and virtual classroom experiences, self-study online courses, live and recorded webinars, learning community meetings, and networking events. Our courses are developed by our internal Instructional Design Team or by external subject matter experts and consultants.



Our technical assistance services, commonly referred to as coaching or consulting, is a one-on-one service that provides timely, flexible, and focused support to build the capacity of youth development specialists. The purpose of technical assistance is to identify and overcome specific challenges, apply training concepts, and best practices to local conditions, and enhance the professional development of organizational and programmatic staff. For more information about technical assistance services, please call us at 217-299-8803 or email kimberly.thompson@prevention.org.

Our primary goal is to build the capacity and increase the knowledge, skills and abilities of youth development professionals and other professionals working to reduce gun violence in Illinois.

OUR TEAM

Our Training and Technical Assistance Team collectively share nearly **ONE HUNDRED** years of experience in organizational leadership, early childhood development, positive youth development, health promotion and prevention, coalition-building, and classroom teaching.

Kiara Harris



Kiara Harris joined Prevention First as a Training and Technical Assistance Specialist in 2024. Kiara is a former educator and afterschool program specialist whose passion for teaching touched and impacted students living in urban and rural communities that were historically under-resourced and underserved. Kiara remains passionate about creating safe, inclusive learning environments, advocating for equitable access to education and resources, and amplifying the voices of young people as they seek to overcome challenges and pursue their dreams. As an educator, Kiara witnessed firsthand the transformative power of education in shaping lives. Now working in the non-profit sector, Kiara combines her classroom and lived experience to make lasting impacts on those she serves. Kiara holds a Bachelor of Science with a minor in Psychology.

Leslie Lampley



Leslie Lampley joined Prevention First in 2023. Before joining Prevention First, Leslie was employed as vice president of an early-learning child development organization. For the past 25 years, Leslie has worked extensively in human services, early learning and development, and community development. Leslie is an ardent believer in strong community partnerships that engage stakeholders of all levels and ages with integrity. Leslie's expertise includes program design and management, as well as strategy implementation. Leslie's career has also afforded her the opportunity to leverage resources to impact communities positively. Leslie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and Affairs and an MBA. She is the proud mother of one daughter, two stepsons, two grandchildren, and one "grand dog," Rose, who is a total Grandma's girl.

Gigi Moore



Gigi Moore joined Prevention First in 2022. Gigi is passionate about young people and believes their voices and views should be amplified. Gigi spent years in the human services field and taught middle and high school in south suburban school districts. In her role as a prevention specialist and substitute teacher, Gigi facilitated evidence-based programming related to substance misuse, bullying, teen pregnancy, and domestic violence prevention. Gigi worked in her organization's Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services (CCBYS) Program funded by IDHS to stabilize families and minimize involvement in juvenile justice systems. Gigi's expertise in influencing public policy through education and advocacy is demonstrated by her thirty-year-plus role as a member and leader in the League of Women Voters of Illinois, a nonpartisan organization working to increase civic engagement. Gigi's love for gardening led to a youth development and service-learning project. The community garden, located in a food desert, became a therapeutic place to address adolescent mental health. Gigi holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education with a minor in Special Education and a Master's in Training and Development. Gigi has been married for over 30 years and has one adult son, five grandchildren, and two cats that run the house!

Kim Callaway Thompson



Kim joined Prevention First in 2017. Kim's community organizing experience dates back decades as a founding member of a community-based organization in the Auburn-Gresham neighborhood on Chicago's south side. When her family relocated, Kim left corporate America and took a position at a local nonprofit. This decision led to a long career in public service, including teaching youth prevention education in local schools and building coalitions comprised of various civic stakeholders to spur socio-economic development in blighted neighborhoods. Kim's expertise is in program management and strategy implementation. Fueled by a vision of healthy communities, Kim enjoys engaging in systems thinking with like-minded people. Kim served two terms on the Rock Island County Board of Supervisors where she chaired the Health and Human Services Committee and served as Equal Employment Opportunity Officer. Currently, Kim serves on the Quad-Cities Bi-State Regional Commission. Kim holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from St. Ambrose University and a Master of Public Administration from Drake University and was inducted into the Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. Kim has been married to the love of her life for nearly 30 years and has two children, three grandchildren, and five grand-dogs!

CORE TRAININGS



Our core trainings are offered on a consistent basis. See the [Reimagine Youth Development Training Page on our website](#) for a complete listing of courses, including live and virtual classroom training, online courses, recorded webinars, and other learning opportunities.

Asynchronous/Online

- Adverse Childhood Experiences and Strategies for Trauma-Informed Care
- AOD Effects and Trends
- Authentic Youth Engagement
- Best Practices for Retention and Graduation Rates for Young Black and Brown Men
- Collaborating with Key Stakeholders
- Health Equity in Prevention
- Introduction to Youth Engaging in Prevention
- Preventing Prescription and Opioid Drug Misuse
- The Dynamic Adolescent Brain

Synchronous/Consultant-led

- Communicating with Law Enforcement
- Creating a Healing Forest: Mobilizing the Entire Community to Address Violence
- Culturally Responsive and Trauma-Informed Practices for LGBTQIA+ Youth in Out-of-School Settings
- Structuring Your Organization for Success
- Understanding Complex Trauma and Chronic Stress: A Trauma-Informed Care Training Series

Synchronous/Instructor-led

- Convening Coalitions and Advisory Groups
- Effective Group Facilitation
- Foundations of Parent-Caregiver Education
- Foundations of Positive Youth Development
- Selecting Evidence Based Strategies through a Trauma-informed and Racial Equity Lens

