

## Utica SSHS Partnerships

*Numerous community services agencies, youth advocacy programs, government departments, educational institutions and school districts have come together to create a comprehensive network of resources and support. This effort maximizes community expertise and resources to be able to provide and sustain school-based and community-based programs for years to come.*

*Together we help provide evidence and research-based programs that fill gaps in services and meet the needs of our community.*

### Our vital community partners include:

**The Utica City School District** – Originally received the SS/HS grant and created a non-profit agency, which is known today as Utica SS/HS. Through this partnership, Utica SS/HS:

- Maintains offices at the district’s administrative building
- Houses the districts GED and New Comer Program at the Underground Café Teen Center
- Renovated the Underground Café Teen Center to meet NYS regulations for school districts
- Represents the district at various community meetings and events
- Identifies community services for students and families and collaborates on grants
- Provides various school- and community based programs to the districts students and their families
- Trained the largest group of SROs, second to only New York City

**Rome City School District** – Contract for services during and after the SS/HS federal grant.

Utica SS/HS:

- Provides prevention and intervention services
- Collaborates on grants

**Oneida-Herkimer Madison BOCES** – Utica SS/HS was instrumental in the preparation and implementation of their federal SS/HS grant and is contracted to provide services. Utica SS/HS also:

- Assists with the development of a sustainability plan
- Collaborated to create a county-wide Youth and Family Council to support youth servicing agencies

**City of Utica** – Utica SS/HS serves as co-chair of the JCEC (Juvenile Crime Enforcement Committee) which tracks youth crime, high-risk youth and needs, youth coming out of placement, youth involved in probation, etc. Based on trend data, Utica SS/HS customizes its services and programs to meet community needs. The JCEC also helped Utica SS/HS secure the Underground Café Teen Center site, renovate the space to be code compliance and apply for City funding. Utica SS/HS also collaborates with the city on grants specific to youth issues.



**Utica Police Department** – Through this partnership, Utica SS/HS:

- Supported the creation of the Youth Gang Task
- Collaborate on a pre-arrest youth diversion program and various grants
- Has been recognized by the State of New York for this unique partnership and its ability to share information, lower youth crime, and provide prevention services

**Oneida County Department of Social Services** – Utica SS/HS provides efficient and effective services to county residents including mandated prevention services on school grounds, targeting students at high risk for placement.

**Oneida County Department of Probation** – Utica SS/HS collaborates on a successful PINS and Pre-PINS diversion program. In addition, Utica SS/HS collaborates on grants, shares trend and gap information, and sits on the Committee for Appropriate Placement (CAPP) for youth involved in probation who need services.

**Oneida County Youth Bureau** – Utica SS/HS supports all the various activities of our local youth bureau including community service projects such as an intergenerational clean-up day and summer programs.

**Oneida County Juvenile Treatment Court (JTC)** – This specialized court contacted Utica SS/HS in search of programs to get youth involved in positive youth development activities.

**New York State Department of Criminal Justice (DCJS)** – Through funding from DCJS, Utica SS/HS created and developed many successful prevention and intervention programs that have reduced youth crime, truancy, and arrests. In turn, youth grades and graduation rates have increased, and discipline has decreased. Successful outcomes have led to presentations to the Governor’s Office and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Conference.

**New York State Office Of Children and Family Services (OCFS)** – Through this partnership, Utica SS/HS is providing two very successful after school programs and also helping to support the Underground Café Teen Center. This success has led to presentations at state conferences and the pursuit of additional after school programs.

**Hamilton College** – Hamilton College offers experiential activities to students through Outerground. Through College Prep, they train their students in *Let’s Get Ready* to offer an intensive 2-year college preparation program for Utica SS/HS students involved in The Underground Café Teen Center. The Young People’s Project allows Utica SS/HS students to go on campus for an intensive math skills program. This program targets students who would not otherwise go to, or consider college. In addition, Hamilton College provides mentors to after school program students and provides student volunteers for various events.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church** houses The Underground Café Teen Center and some administrative offices. Utica SS/HS has renovated the space, in lieu of paying rent, and some students work on church events as service learning projects.

**Urban Leadership Institute (ULI)** – Catholic Charities, The Center for Family Life and Recovery, the Peacemaker Program and Utica SS/HS have partnered to create the Urban Leadership Institute. This 5-day camp teaches valuable leadership and team building skills to the next generation of leaders. Participants are nominated by their school and attend the camp at no cost. The first year, 26 teens graduated.