



drug-free communities **support program**

Office of National Drug Control Policy January 2007

Overview

- Originally funded by Congress in 1997, the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) program now supports over 700 drug-free community coalitions across the United States, based on the fundamental idea that local problems need local solutions. The goal of the coalitions is to bring citizens together to prevent and reduce drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse among youth.
- The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy directs the DFC Program in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- In December of 2006, President Bush signed legislation extending the DFC Program for an additional five years through FY 2012.
- DFC provides the funding necessary for communities to identify and respond to local substance abuse problems.
- DFC coalitions collect and report local data on youth substance abuse as part of their strategic plan.

Bringing Citizens Together

- DFC coalitions are required to include members from different parts of the community working on multiple community drug prevention strategies.
- Membership includes youth, parents, businesses, the media, schools, youth organizations, law enforcement, religious or fraternal organizations, civic groups, health care professionals, state, local or tribal governmental agencies.
- Coalitions host activities such as town hall meetings on drug issues, youth summits, local drug use surveys, beverage server training, youth leadership training, social marketing campaigns, and policy change.
- Currently there are 736 DFCs in 49 states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Providing Financial Support for Communities

- In August, 2007, \$8.9 million was awarded to 90 new grantees.
- Awards are up to \$500,000 over five years.
- An additional \$62.9 million was awarded in continuation grants to 646 existing community coalitions projects.
- 19 new grants totaling \$1.3 million have been awarded through the DFC Support Mentoring Program. These funds will advance existing DFC grantees to develop more self-supporting community anti-drug coalitions.
- \$1 million has been awarded under the mentoring program to support 15 continuation grants.
- Each grantee is required to match their grant award dollar for dollar with non federal funds or in-kind support.

