



# OJJDP FACT SHEET

April 2001 #08

## The Drug-Free Communities Support Program

by James M. Simonson

On June 27, 1997, the Drug-Free Communities Act of 1997 became law. This Act is a catalyst for increased citizen participation in efforts to reduce substance use among youth, and it provides community antidrug coalitions with much-needed funds to carry out their important missions.

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) directs the Drug-Free Communities Support Program in partnership with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). This antidrug program provides grants of up to \$100,000 to community coalitions that mobilize their communities to prevent youth alcohol, tobacco, illicit drug, and inhalant abuse. The grants support coalitions of youth; parents; media; law enforcement; school officials; faith-based organizations; fraternal organizations; State, local, and tribal government agencies; healthcare professionals; and other community representatives. The Drug-Free Communities Support Program enables the coalitions to strengthen their coordination and prevention efforts, encourage citizen participation in substance abuse reduction efforts, and disseminate information about effective programs.

### Funds To Be Awarded

Through the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, an estimated \$143.5 million is authorized to support the work of local, community-based coalitions over a 5-year period. The Drug-Free Communities Act authorized the following appropriations to ONDCP for the Program: \$10 million in fiscal year (FY) 1998, \$20 million in FY 1999, \$30 million in FY 2000, \$40 million in FY 2001, and \$43.5 million in FY 2002. Awards to coalitions are for 1 year, but grantees may apply for continuation awards, which are based on performance and availability of funds. Each grant requires a dollar-for-dollar match from non-Federal sources. The grantees represent a cross-section of America, including rural, suburban, urban, and tribal entities. They have implemented effective prevention strategies such as mentoring, school-based curriculums, training, and juvenile diversion

programs. A second Fact Sheet will describe a variety of successful efforts from across the Nation that have received support through the Drug-Free Communities Support Program.

### Who Is Eligible To Receive the Funds

Applications are accepted from community coalitions whose members have worked together on substance abuse reduction initiatives for more than 6 months. Coalitions use task forces, subcommittees, community boards, and other community resources to enhance their collaborative efforts. With substantial participation from community leaders, the coalitions implement multi-sector, multistrategy, long-term plans to reduce substance abuse among youth.

### Program Goals and Objectives

The Drug-Free Communities Support Program has two major goals:

- ◆ To reduce substance abuse among youth and, over time, adults, by addressing the factors in a community that increase the risk of substance abuse and enhancing factors that reduce that risk.
- ◆ To establish and strengthen community collaboration—including their working with Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and private, nonprofit agencies—and to support local coalition efforts to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth.

The Drug-Free Communities Support Program also seeks to achieve four other objectives:

- ◆ To catalyze citizen and organization participation and collaboration in community efforts to reduce substance abuse among youth.
- ◆ To enhance community efforts to promote and deliver effective substance abuse prevention strategies to multiple sectors of the community.

- ◆ To assess the effectiveness of community initiatives that focus on reducing substance abuse among youth.
- ◆ To provide information about effective substance abuse reduction initiatives for youth that can be replicated in other communities.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) helps grantees implement science-based prevention programs and facilitates information sharing among the grantees. With Drug Prevention Program funding support from OJJDP, CSAP provides training and technical assistance in areas such as coalition enhancement, program evaluation, and prevention strategies to grantees through six regional Centers for the Application of Prevention Technologies (Northeast: Newton, MA; Central: Anoka, MN; Western: Reno, NV; South: Jackson, MS; Border: El Paso, TX; Southwest: Norman, OK). In addition, an 11-member Advisory Commission on Drug-Free Communities, appointed by the President, provides recommendations to the ONDCP Director on effective implementation of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program.

## For Further Information

More information about the Program is available in print or on the Internet from both the OJJDP and ONDCP clearinghouses.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
 Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse  
 P.O. Box 6000  
 Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
 800-638-8736  
 Internet: [www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org)

Office of National Drug Control Policy  
 Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse  
 P.O. Box 6000  
 Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
 800-666-3332  
 Internet: [www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov)

Individual project summaries for each grant award are available on OJJDP's Web site ([www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/grantee/grantees.html](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/grantee/grantees.html)) and ONDCP's Web site ([www.whitehousedrugpolicy.org](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.org)). Information is also available on CSAP's Web site ([www.samhsa.gov/csap](http://www.samhsa.gov/csap)).

James M. Simonson is a Program Manager with the Drug-Free Communities Support Program at OJJDP.

*The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office for Victims of Crime.*

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