



Johnson County STOP Underage Drinking Project
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U.S. DRUG CZAR AWARDS \$60 MILLION TO 565 DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES CONTINUATION GRANTEES, INCLUDING THE JOHNSON COUNTY STOP UNDERAGE DRINKING PROJECT

(Washington, D.C.) Today, R. Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), awarded \$60 million in Drug Free Communities (DFC) Continuation Grants to 565 Drug Free Communities coalitions. These grants will assist local community coalitions as they work to prevent and reduce youth substance use.

“We fully understand the important role local leaders play in preventing and reducing youth substance use within communities,” said Director Kerlikowske. “Substance abuse issues are best prevented and reduced at the local level, and that is why the Drug-Free Communities Support Program is so vital. It leverages the strengths of local communities by increasing neighborhood participation, encouraging dialogue and focusing attention on saving children’s lives.”

The Drug Free Communities program, created in 1997 by the Drug Free Communities Act, is directed by ONDCP in partnership with the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The DFC program has provided the Johnson County STOP Underage Drinking Project with \$400,000 over four years, and has now awarded \$100,000 for the final fiscal year to facilitate civic participation in local drug prevention efforts. The program is renewable for an additional five years per competitive application.

Coalitions are comprised of community leaders, parents, youth, teachers, religious and fraternal organizations, health care and business professionals, law enforcement, and the media. As DFC continuation grantees, today’s awardees are within a five-year cycle, and successfully met the statutory eligibility, programmatic and fiscal requirements necessary to receive continuation funding. Also, the local Johnson County community has matched the program dollar for dollar to bring the total investment to \$1,000,000 over the five year timeline.

“The Drug Free Communities program reaches about 27 percent of America’s youth,” said SAMHSA Acting Administrator Eric Broderick, D.D.S, M.P.H. “These grants expand the power of prevention to communities working to reduce drug abuse and promote healthy, productive lives.”

From this award, the local STOP Underage Drinking Project has introduced science-based prevention education to the Shawnee Mission School District, developed a Youth Leadership Program, initiated a public service ad campaign on cable television and movie theaters, continued the Wrong of Passage multimedia presentation, and completed alcohol retailer compliance checks.

For more information on the local DFC Program, please visit: www.jocostop.org.