



THE ALLIANCE FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION, INC.

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## **ASAP COALITION AWARDED A FIVE-YEAR FEDERAL DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES GRANT**

On Thursday, August 27, 2009, Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) announced the awarding of \$21 million in new Drug Free Communities (DFC) grants to 161 communities across the country. **The Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (ASAP)** was one of the awardees, and will receive \$125,000 in DFC grant funds annually for five years, to involve and engage the community to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug abuse among Nantucket youth.

ASAP was among eleven (11) cities and towns in MA to receive an award, including Avon, Quincy, Lowell, Peabody, Medford, Chelsea, Holyoke, Brighton, Needham and Fall River. The ASAP Board of Directors selected Family & Children's Services of Nantucket County (dba Nantucket Behavioral Health Services), an integral member of the coalition, to serve as the lead agency for fiscal management. Fiscal Administrator, Peter Swenson said, "We are excited by the opportunity to partner with ASAP to address the problems of youth substance abuse in our community. Together we are working to create a healthier community."

"Efforts to keep our youth drug free are critical to building a healthier community here for all Nantucketers," said Amber Cantella, President of the ASAP Board of Directors. "The Drug Free Communities Program recognizes the great potential of the ASAP Coalition to build and strengthen collaboration among all our community partners, especially our youth and parents, to prevent and reduce substance abuse among our youth. This new funding will support ASAP initiatives to: 1) prevent and reduce alcohol, marijuana and prescription drug use among Nantucket youth; 2) implement environmental strategies to reduce youth access of alcohol, marijuana and prescription drugs from social and/or commercial sources; and 3) to implement a social marketing campaign to promote healthy community norms."

The Drug Free Communities Support Program is directed by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The DFC program provides grants of up to \$625,000 over five years to community coalitions that facilitate citizen participation in local drug prevention efforts, with an option to reapply for a second five-year competitive grant award, for a total of up to ten years funding annualized at \$125,000. Coalitions are comprised of community leaders, parents, youth, teachers, religious and fraternal organizations, health care and business professionals, law enforcement, and the media.

The 161 new grantees were selected from 417 applicant proposals submitted on March 20, 2009, through a competitive, peer-reviewed process. To qualify for matching grants, all awardees must have at least a six-month history of working together on substance abuse reduction initiatives, have representation from each of the 12 specific sectors of the community, develop a long-term plan to reduce substance abuse, and participate in the national evaluation of the DFC program.

The DFC program was created by the Drug Free Communities Act of 1997, and was reauthorized by Congress in 2001 and 2006. Since 1998, ONDCP has awarded approximately 1,500 DFC grants to local communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Palau, Guam, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

More information about the Drug-Free Communities Program is available at:  
[www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/dfc](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/dfc)