



Press Release

Alexandria's Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition Wins \$602,930 Federal Grant to Fund Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Programs

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Alexandria, Virginia – The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) has received a federal Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant of \$602,930 (\$120,586 per year for five years) that will support the work of the coalition to prevent and reduce substance abuse among Alexandria's youth.

SAPCA was one of 199 U.S. community coalitions selected through a competitive process to receive a total of \$24.4 million in new Drug Free Communities grants, for which 419 communities applied. The DFC Program, administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department Health and Human Services, provides grants of up to \$625,000 over five years to community organizations that facilitate citizen participation in local drug prevention efforts.

SAPCA is an alliance of more than 80 members representing parents, youth, schools, City of Alexandria health and recreation agencies, nonprofits, businesses, faith communities, policymakers and law enforcement whose mission is to engage the entire community in reducing youth substance use and abuse in Alexandria. SAPCA was created in 2007 as part of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria (<http://www.alexhealth.org/partnership>). Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille is SAPCA's honorary chair. SAPCA is a member of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA).

The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria will use the funding during the first year to complete a comprehensive community assessment that seeks to better define the local conditions that are contributing to youth substance abuse here. First-year funding will also allow SAPCA to develop an action plan with intervention strategies for grant years two through five as well as build community awareness about youth substance abuse among the City's diverse faith-based, business, parent and youth groups. The Alexandria Community Services Board will serve as the fiscal agent overseeing the grant and the coordinator position funded through the grant.

"Far too many Alexandria youth use alcohol, marijuana and tobacco," said Allen Lomax, SAPCA chair. "This DFC grant provides our coalition a great opportunity to have a major impact on reducing substance abuse among youth in our community. We welcome and encourage the support and involvement of everyone in the community – parents, youth, business leaders, officials, law enforcement, and faith-based leaders – as we work together to reduce youth substance abuse, an issue that affects all of us." Information about SAPCA, including membership, is available at <http://www.alexhealth.org/partnership/sapca.html>.

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