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Office of National Drug Control Policy Awards \$625,000 to Local Coalition to Continue Youth Substance Use Prevention in the City of Alexandria

ALEXANDRIA, Va., – The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) was awarded a grant in the amount of \$625,000 by the Drug-Free Communities Support Program (DFC) to continue to involve and engage the local community to prevent substance use among youth. SAPCA is one of 147 new DFC grantees across the country.

SAPCA is an alliance of parents, youth, schools, city health and recreation agencies, media, nonprofits, businesses, policymakers and law enforcement whose mission is to engage diverse sectors of the community in collaborative, cross-cultural and comprehensive substance abuse prevention efforts that result in a reduction of underage substance use and abuse in the City of Alexandria.

“We are not powerless against the challenge of drug use among young people here in Alexandria, said Allen Lomax, SAPCA Chair. “Research shows that prevention is the most effective tool we have to reduce the terrible consequences associated with drug use among young people. This new funding will enable SAPCA to continue helping place more young people on the path toward success and enable them to live healthier and safer lives.”

The DFC Program provides grants of up to \$625,000 over 5 years to community coalitions that facilitate citizen participation in local drug prevention efforts. Coalitions are composed of community leaders, parents, youth, teachers, religious and fraternal organizations, healthcare and business professionals, law enforcement, the media, and others working together at the local level.

“President Obama believes in the pursuit of an America built to last – a Nation with an educated, skilled workforce that has the knowledge, energy, and expertise to succeed in a highly competitive global marketplace,” said Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). “For too many young people, this future is clouded by drug use, which inhibits their ability to remain healthy and safe and to achieve their full potential. We congratulate this coalition on its work to raise a generation of young people equipped to remain drug free and ready to meet the challenges and successfully compete in the 21st century.”

“The key to preventing substance abuse is harnessing the talents, resources, and interests of all segments of our local communities,” said SAMHSA Administrator Pamela S. Hyde. “America’s families, schools, places of worship, healthcare providers, community centers, and other civic organizations all play an essential role in helping our youth avoid illicit substance use.

SAMHSA’s partnership with the Office of National Drug Control Policy in supporting community coalitions has proven effective in uniting communities to develop effective approaches for fostering drug-free environments for young people across our Nation.”

For more information about the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria, visit:

www.preventitalexandria.org

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