



FACT SHEET

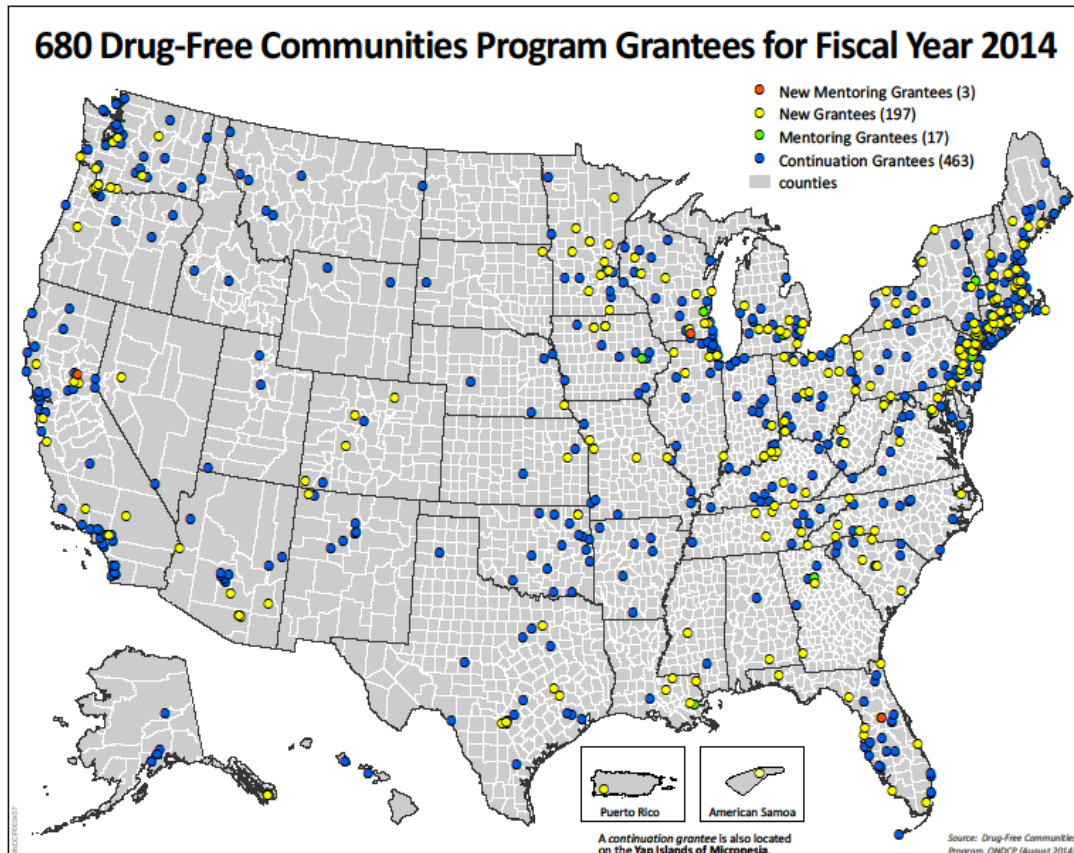
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Drug-Free Communities Support Program

The Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program, created by the Drug-Free Communities Act of 1997, is the Nation's leading effort to mobilize communities to prevent youth substance use. 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 to community coalitions to strengthen the infrastructure among local partners to create and sustain a reduction in local youth substance use.

According to combined data for 2010 and 2011, an estimated 4,600 young people between the ages of 12 and 17 used drugs for the first time in the preceding year.¹ Additionally, high school seniors are more likely to smoke marijuana than cigarettes and non-medical use of prescription or over-the-counter drugs remains unacceptably high, accounting for 6 of the top 10 substances used by 12th graders.² Parents should also know that 21% of high school students reported binge drinking (i.e., 5 or more drinks in a row) in the past 30 days.³

Recognizing that local problems need local solutions, DFC-funded coalitions engage multiple sectors of the community and employ a variety of environmental strategies to address local drug problems. By involving the community in a solution-oriented approach, DFC also helps those youth at risk for substance use recognize the majority of our Nation's youth choose not to use drugs. Additionally, DFC-funded communities have proven to be more effective in addressing these complex social issues and have demonstrated an increase in positive outcomes over communities that do not have DFC's.



ONDCP seeks to foster healthy individuals and safe communities by effectively leading the Nation's effort to reduce drug use and its consequences.

The Solutions are in the Community

As a catalyst for increased citizen participation in efforts to reduce substance use among youth aged 12-17, the DFC Program requires funded coalitions to include active participation from 12 sectors of the community, including:

- ❖ Youth
- ❖ Parents
- ❖ Law enforcement
- ❖ Schools
- ❖ Businesses
- ❖ Media
- ❖ Youth-serving organizations
- ❖ Religious and fraternal organizations
- ❖ Civic and volunteer groups
- ❖ Healthcare professionals
- ❖ State, local, and tribal agencies with expertise in substance abuse
- ❖ Other organizations involved in reducing substance abuse

- The DFC Program mobilizes nearly 9,000 community coalition members throughout the United States.
- Coalition members conduct ongoing community assessments to prioritize efforts to prevent and reduce youth substance use. These assessments are used to plan and implement data-driven, community-wide strategies that address these complex social issues.
- The DFC Program requires funded coalitions to employ environmental strategies – broad initiatives aimed at addressing the entire community through the adaptation of policies and practices related to youth substance use.

Providing Support for Communities

- Since its inception, the DFC Program has funded over 2,000 community coalitions.
- Community coalitions that are at least six months old can apply for up to \$125,000 per year for up to five years. Each coalition can apply for two cycles of funding, for a maximum of 10 years.
- To be eligible for DFC funding, coalitions must comply with a minimum one-to-one match requirement, thus doubling the Federal investment. The matching amounts – whether in-kind, donations, or cash – must come from non-Federal sources.
- With 92% of funds appropriated to DFC allocated for grant awards, DFC represents one of the most effective and efficient primary prevention efforts in our Nation today.
- SAMHSA provides Grants Management Specialists and Government Project Officers who serve as primary points of contact for DFC-funded coalitions. Additionally, SAMHSA monitors DFC-funded coalitions for fiscal and administrative grant compliance, conduct site visits, and provides support for financial issues.
- In FY 2014, \$84 million funded 197 new grants, 463 continuation grants for coalitions already in a five-year cycle, 3 new DFC Mentoring grants, and 17 continuation DFC Mentoring grants. The DFC Mentoring grants provide funding to existing grantees so they can help new coalitions become strong enough to apply for DFC funding on their own.

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (August 29, 2013). *The CBHSQ Report: A Day in the Life of American Adolescents: Substance Use Facts Update*. Rockville, MD. Retrieved from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/2K13/CBHSQ128/sr128-typical-day-adolescents-2013.pdf>.

² Johnston, L.D., O'Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Schulenberg, J. E. (2012). Monitoring the Future national results on adolescent drug use: Overview of key findings, 2011. Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, the University of Michigan.

³ Kann, L., Kinchen, S., Shanklin, S.L., et al. (2014). *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States, 2013*. MMWR 2014;63 (No. SS-4). Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6304.pdf>.