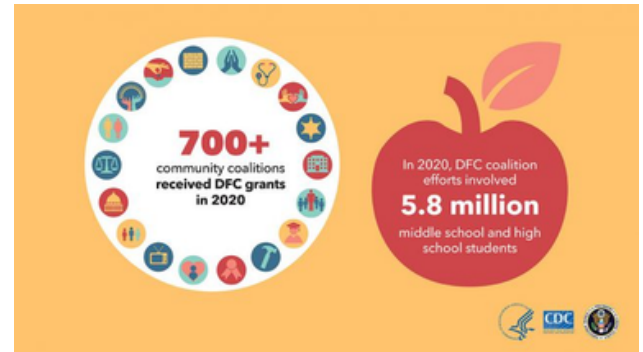


Goals & Objectives

The town of Colchester was awarded \$625,000 in federal funding under the Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant program administered by the Department of Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This funding was awarded as a five-year cycle for \$125,000 per year.

The funding has allowed us to hire a Coalition Coordinator to assist in developing the capacity and functioning of the coalition in advancing the goals and strategies of the Drug Free Communities program. These goals and strategies are based on analysis of our local data and community meetings. The Drug Free Communities Grant Program requires communities to focus on two substances based on local data. The substances our program is focused on are underage marijuana use and underage drinking.



First Goal

Strengthen the Youth First Coalition by increasing community collaborations and the involvement of community organizations, community groups, and individuals members and initiatives.

- Objective 1 - Expand capacity of the coalition by adding new individual members and community organizations.
- Objective 2 - Enhance the functioning and sustainability of the coalition by developing sector leaders, increasing sector membership, and establishing committees.

Second Goal

Strengthen the Youth First Coalition by Increasing community collaborations and the involvement of community organizations, community groups, and individuals members and initiatives.

- Objective 1 - Reduce percentage of Colchester youth who report alcohol is easy to obtain.
- Objective 2 - Increase percentage of Colchester youth who report their friends and parents would disapprove of their alcohol use.
- Objective 3 - Increase the percentage of Colchester youth who report great to moderate risk from using marijuana 1-2 times per week.
- Objective 4 - Decrease the percentage of Colchester youth who report getting marijuana from home without parental permission.

The Future is Counting on You

Get Involved!

- Volunteer to become part of a sector, attend monthly meetings when you are able, contribute your experience and knowledge to initiatives/project planning. Sectors include:

Business Healthcare Parents Law Enforcement Religious
Schools Civic/Volunteer Organizations Media Substance Use Services/Org's Youth Youth Serving Organizations

- Become part of our network and share information and resources with your connections to help us spread the word.
- Join a subcommittee to do specific project based work in the areas of Training & Education, Marketing & Social Media, School-Based Initiatives, Membership & Sustainability or Data Collection & Analysis.
- Become an Official Board Member of and be sworn in by the First Selectman, committing to attend most or all monthly coalition meetings for a period of three years.

Contact:

Charity Benedict at cbenedict@colchesterct.gov / 860.537.7255

DFC coalition prevention activities include:



#NOMA

(NO MARIJUANA / ALCOHOL)

#ICHOOSEMYPATH



DFC coalitions identified the following **negative risk factors** that facilitate youth substance use:

- Perceived acceptability of substance use
- Availability of substances that can be misused
- Parents' lacking the ability or confidence to discuss substance use with their children
- Family trauma or stress
- Parental attitudes that are favorable toward antisocial behavior

