

Background Information
(provided by CADCA 3/12/2010)

BACKGROUND

In his Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Budget Request, the President recommended cutting funding for the Drug Free Communities (DFC) program by \$9.5 million, to \$85.5 million. This level of funding would support very few new grants, and significantly reduce the overall number of grantees nationwide. At a minimum, funding for the program must be restored to last year's appropriated level of \$95 million. Increased funding is necessary, however, to ensure that the overall number of grants funded by the program remains stable. It is therefore critical that the field does everything it can to ensure that funding for the DFC program is not only restored, but funded at the highest possible level above the FY 2010 appropriated level of \$95 million in FY 2011.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The House and Senate are currently circulating Dear Colleague Sign On Letters in support of the DFC program. It is imperative that members of Congress hear from the field en masse that funding for the program must, at a minimum be restored, if not increased in FY 2011, to keep the total number of funded grants stable. Please ask your members to lend their names to the House and Senate sign on letters in support of funding the program at the highest possible level above the FY 2010 appropriated level of \$95 million in FY 2011.

Using CADCA's sample letter, you can contact the members of your congressional delegation to ask them to make funding the DFC program at the highest possible level above the FY 2010 appropriated level of \$95 million one of their top appropriations priorities for FY 2011. **YOUR LETTER IS CRITICAL.** The more letters your members of Congress receive on this issue, the more likely we are to: 1) stave off the President's proposed cut to the program; and 2) receive an increase.

TIMING

Please contact the members of your congressional delegation **IMMEDIATELY**. CADCA will continue to monitor the DFC program as the appropriations process moves forward.

CADCA's fax system allows you to automatically fax CADCA's sample letter on this issue to your legislators from CADCA's website. To send faxes to your legislators, go to <http://capwiz.com/cadca/home/>.

You may also choose to utilize a pre-printed sample letter (created by CADCA) provided at the meeting today. If you would like to personalize your letter with examples from our community, Laura can e-mail you an electronic MS Word version of CADCA's sample letter.

OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION MEMBERS ARE:

Senator Ben Nelson
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2706
FAX: (202) 228-0012
Phone: (202) 224-6551

Senator Mike Johanns
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2705
FAX: (202) 228-0436
Phone: (202) 224-4224

Representative Jeff Fortenberry
1535 Longworth House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515-2701
FAX: (202) 225-5686
Phone: (202) 225-4806

STEP 1: Date, fill in the salutation and sign one sample letter for each congressional delegation member you wish to contact.

STEP 2: Using the information listed above, mail or fax your letter(s).

STEP 3: Tell NADAA Director Laura Osborne who you sent letters to so a total can be tabulated for our coalition. Contact Laura at 274-9485 or at nadaacoordinator@yahoo.com.

Date: ____/____/2010

Dear: _____:

I am writing to ask you to make funding for the Drug Free Communities (DFC) program at the highest possible level above the FY 2010 appropriated level of \$95 million, to include \$2 million from **within** the total for the National Community Anti-Drug Coalition Institute (the Institute), one of your top appropriations priorities in the FY 2011 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill. Please also lend your name to the Dear Colleague Sign On letter currently being circulated in support of this program.

Unfortunately, the President's FY 2011 Budget recommended cutting the DFC program by \$9.5 million, and only requested \$85.5 million for the program. The President's recommended cut could not come at a worse time. The latest Monitoring the Future survey found that youth attitudes about the risks of drug use have declined: fewer 8th and 10th graders believe smoking marijuana is dangerous; and fewer 10th and 12th graders believe that trying ecstasy is dangerous. Declines in perception of harm invariably precede increases in drug use. The 2009 National PRIDE Survey Data found increases in past 30-day use in all drug categories for all grade levels six through 12, and according to the most recent Monitoring the Future survey, more 10th and 12th grade students are now smoking marijuana than cigarettes.

DFC grantees have reduced drug use and abuse in communities throughout the country to levels lower than national averages. They are singularly situated to deal with emerging drug trends, such as methamphetamine, "cheese," and prescription drug abuse because they have the necessary infrastructure in place to effectively address drug related issues within their communities. DFC funded communities are organized, data driven and take a comprehensive, multi-sector approach to solving and addressing drug issues. Despite the success and steady growth of the program, since its inception there has only been enough money to fund 34% of those who have applied for DFC funding. Unless the program is funded at a level of at least \$95 million, the total number of DFC grants nationwide will substantially decline, and the overall community based drug prevention infrastructure throughout the country will be diminished.

The DFC program is unique in that federal support is contingent upon a community demonstrating local commitment and resolve to address its specific drug problems in a comprehensive, collaborative manner, before it is eligible to receive any federal funds. The DFC program recognizes that in order to be sustainable over time grantees must actively involve multiple community sectors (e.g., schools, law enforcement, parents, media, business, etc.) and have active community support and buy in. All grantees are required to provide a dollar for dollar match in non-federal funds, up to the maximum grant amount of \$125,000 per year. The DFC program is a worthy investment of additional scarce federal resources. It is not only effective in reducing youth drug use, but many DFC grantees are currently matching two to three times as much as the federal grant funding they receive.

Historically there has been \$2 million included from within the total amount appropriated for the DFC program to fund the Institute. The Institute provides the state of the art training, technical assistance and performance evaluation components needed to make coalitions more effective in reducing drug abuse.

DFC grantees have clearly proven that they can prevent and reduce drug use in communities nationwide. Given the fact that perceptions of risk about drug use are declining, it is critical that the DFC program funding is at a minimum restored, if not increased, for FY 2011 to equip the maximum number of communities to effectively address youth drug issues. *Please ensure that funding for this program is one of your top priorities in the FY 2011 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill, and lend your name to the Dear Colleague Sign On letter currently being circulated in support of the program.* Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,
