



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 28, 2014

Contact: ONDCP Public Affairs
MediaInquiry@ondcp.eop.gov or 202-395-6618

CRCHY Awarded \$625,000 to Prevent Youth Substance Use in the Council Rock Communities

Grants Support Federal Efforts to Emphasize Public Health Approaches to Drug Policy, Reduce Demand for Drugs through Education

(Washington D.C.) –

The Council Rock Coalition for Healthy Youth has been awarded a \$625,000.00 grant to continue its programs aimed at preventing substance abuse by students. The grant was one of 680 Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program grants, totaling \$84 million, to communities across the country. The grants will provide local communities funding to prevent youth substance use and support the Administration's *National Drug Control Strategy*, which treats our Nation's drug problem through a balanced public health and safety approach.

Council Rock Coalition for Healthy Youth will specifically work to address reducing the use, and abuse, of alcohol, prescription drugs, tobacco, and marijuana, and encourages interested community members to become involved in these efforts.

“Drug and alcohol abuse destroys families and young lives – in doing so, it takes a toll on the future of our communities and nation. As a parent, I see first-hand the pressures our children face. However, like every problem, there is a solution: By educating our children about the dangers of substance abuse we can push back against this serious issue and ensure we’re protecting our future generations. I’m proud to represent the Council Rock Coalition for Healthy Youth as it works to engage in our neighborhoods and prevent substance abuse and I know this grant will be put to good use in supporting this critical mission,” said Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick.

“We are not powerless against the challenge of drug use among young people here in Council Rock,” said Francine Block, President of the coalition. “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 allow Council Rock Coalition for Healthy Youth to help place more young people on the path toward success and enable them to live healthier and safer lives.”

“Council Rock and our school community are grateful for the work of the Council Rock Coalition as we collaborate on programs and education to help students make productive

decisions. The coalitions has been an outstanding partner in procuring resources, partnering with our school district and others for prevention programs and offering workshops to our parents”, said Superintendent of Schools Mark Klein.

“Drug-free coalitions across the nation are mobilizing to mount effective, coordinated prevention programs against substance use, especially among youth,” said Pamela S. Hyde, Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). “SAMHSA is honored to partner with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy in building these critically important community coalitions.”

The Drug-Free Communities Support Program is directed by ONDCP in partnership with HHS’s SAMHSA. The DFC Program provides grants of up to \$625,000 over five years to community coalitions that facilitate youth and adult participation at the community level in local youth drug use prevention efforts. Coalitions are comprised of community leaders, parents, youth, teachers, religious and fraternal organizations, health care and business professionals, law enforcement, and media.

The DFC Program was created by the Drug-Free Communities Act of 1997 and reauthorized by Congress in 2001 and 2006. Since 1998, ONDCP has awarded over 2,000 DFC grants to local communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, Palau, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The rate of overall drug use in the United States has declined by roughly 30 percent since 1979. More recently, the number of current cocaine users has declined by more than a third (36%) from 2006 to 2013, and the number of current meth users has fallen by 19 percent over the same period. To build on this progress and support a balance of public health and safety approaches to drug control outlined in the *Strategy*, in FY 2015 the Obama Administration has requested nearly \$10.9 billion for drug education programs and support for expanding access to drug treatment for people suffering from substance use disorders.

For more information about the Administration efforts to reduce drug use and its consequences, or to learn more about the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, visit:
www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp

For more information about the Council Rock Coalition for Healthy Youth efforts to reduce substance abuse, or to learn about the Council Rock Parenting Academy, visit:
www.CRCHY.org

The Office of National Drug Control Policy seeks to foster healthy individuals and safe communities by effectively leading the Nation’s effort to reduce drug use and its consequences.

####