

**FAIRFIELD CARES COMMUNITY COALITION
LOCAL PREVENTION COUNCIL (LPC) 2014-2015 GRANT FUNDING**

Resolution:

To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that funds be transferred from an increase in grant revenue in the amount of \$5,675 to cover the cost of programs sponsored by Fairfield Cares Community Coalition, Fairfield's Local Prevention Council, which develops alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse and suicide prevention initiatives; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman is authorized to make, execute, and approve on behalf of the Town of Fairfield, any and all contracts or amendments thereof with the Regional Youth/Adult Substance Abuse Project (RYASAP). These costs are 100% reimbursable by a 7/1/14-6/30/15 State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Grant to Local Prevention Councils, administered by RYASAP.

BACKGROUND

From 1988 until 2012, ACT (Adults and Children Together) served as Fairfield's designated Local Prevention Council (LPC). Working as a local partner of RYASAP (Regional Youth/Adult Substance Abuse Prevention Project), the group was supported by an annual grant of \$5,675 from the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Service's (DMHAS) grant program to support local prevention councils.

In 2009, a separate task force was formed under the name of Fairfield Cares Task Force on Alcohol and Health. This group was working parallel to ACT, and in 2012 the decision was made to merge the groups and combine efforts. At that time, members of both groups came together and the First Selectman designated the newly formed Fairfield Cares Community Coalition as Fairfield's Local Prevention Council (LPC). Members of the coalition include a broad spectrum of key stakeholders from youth and town serving organizations.

The grant comes from the same source as in the past (DMHAS) and is used for the same types of activities as it was during ACT's tenure. This grant is designed to foster the continued development of local, municipal-based activities focused on the prevention of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug use. Grant recipients must choose at least two of six prevention strategies: 1) Information Dissemination 2) Education 3) Community Based Processes 4) Alternatives 5) Problem Identification and Referral and 6) Environmental.

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GRANT PROPOSAL

Tobacco Prevention Activities - \$1,000

The grant requires that \$1,000 be spent in this area. Funds will support school based tobacco prevention programming for 7th and 12th grade students in partnership with the Smokestoppers program from St. Vincent's Swim Across the Sound.

Substance Abuse Prevention Efforts / School Partnerships - \$2,500

Funding to Fairfield's middle school and high school PTAs for substance abuse prevention programs.

Community Prevention Activities - \$1,500

Parent Connect Program through Fairfield Counseling Services - \$1,000

An informal parenting group facilitated by a master level mental health clinician and a counseling intern, provides a 60 minute networking group targeted to elementary, middle and high school aged parents interested in sharing parenting strategies and current child development education. Ongoing meetings.

Creating Lasting Family Connections - \$500

CLFC is listed on the National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices. The curriculum includes defining family responsibilities, strengthening communication skills, and establishing new patterns of interaction among family members. Programming will be geared to 5th and 6th grade families and requires a regular time commitment over a period of several weeks.

Publicity - \$675

These funds will be used to construct a coalition website, and create brochures, event flyers, media campaigns and educational materials. All publicity efforts are geared to information dissemination and education, as the grantors require.

TOTAL - \$5,675

The above allocations were agreed upon by members of the Fairfield Cares Community Coalition at its July 22, 2014 meeting.

Fairfield Cares Community Coalition

We are a community collaboration among Town, schools, parents, business, law enforcement, clergy and other youth serving organizations dedicated to substance abuse prevention, positive youth development and the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

Sub-committees:

- Substance abuse prevention
- Wellness
- Research/Resources
- Publicity

Summary of Accomplishments:

Substance Abuse

- 5th year of Freshman Forum on underage drinking at both High schools
- 2 year social norms print campaign to students regarding alcohol use
- 4th year of Prom season postcards to parents of juniors and seniors at the two high schools and Fairfield Prep reminding parents of the consequences of allowing underage drinking and encouraging them to have clear and consistent messages discouraging alcohol use.
- Program for seniors on transition to life after high school
- High school programs on Stress and the teenage brain (January)
- Marijuana/Prescription Drug abuse presentation and panel Q&A (April)
- Information sheets on marijuana and Prescription Drug use
- Produced Posters to publicize the Anonymous Medication Drop Box located in the Fairfield Police Department lobby

Wellness:

- Suicide prevention – 4 coalition members trained as trainers for QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer), a suicide prevention program
- Hosted QPR training for all certified staff at both high schools
- Delivered QPR to PTA at Fairfield Ludlowe High School
- 40 community stakeholders trained in CONNECT suicide prevention
- Introduced Fairfield Cares to Town Youth Council
- Year 2 of Parent Connect program through Fairfield Counseling Services
- Successful outreach to Middle school PTA representatives and MS administrative leadership team

Research/Resources:

- 2nd ever Parent Survey
- Continued Implementation of RYASAP Youth Survey

Publicity:

- Developed Fairfield Cares Logo
- Created Fairfield Cares Facebook page
- Produced Medication Drop Box Ad-Notes to run on Fairfield Citizen Newspaper publicizing Drop Box at Fairfield Police Headquarters

Fairfield Cares Community Coalition

Moving Forward:

As the community's designated Local Prevention Council, we seek to be the vehicle for coordination of community-wide prevention efforts. This year's focus on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, prescription drugs and suicide prevention will include efforts to further engage community stakeholders, provide resources to parents and youth and continue to create community norms and systems that will provide for positive youth development and promote healthy lifestyles.