



## 5 More Years: Two Federal Grants Bring More than \$800,000 to Tiverton

The Tiverton Prevention Coalition was awarded its second Drug-Free Communities grant in October, a total of \$625,000 over the next five years. In addition, it was awarded its first STOP grant, a total of \$188,000 over the next four years. Bottom line, that translates into an annual operating budget of about \$160,000 for the Coalition over the next five years.

**Two Grants, Two Strategies.** The DFC grant focuses on evidence-based strategies that prevent the use of alcohol and other drugs among middle and high school students. Its ultimate goal is to develop a strong, sustainable “prevention infrastructure” in which every sector of the community plays a part in keeping kids safe, healthy and drug-free.

The STOP grant is awarded to prevent and reduce only alcohol use among youth from 12 to 20 years old. STOP grants are given only to former and current DFC communities.

In Tiverton, STOP grant monies will focus on three at-risk populations: 8th and 9th graders, 11th graders and LGBT students. Annual surveys over the last five years show that alcohol use by youth in Tiverton spikes in the transition from grades eight to nine – a period when most town youth probably use alcohol for the first time. The second spike occurs in 11th

grade. Knowing that these kids face a greater risk enables us to develop programs specifically for them.

Though we have not measured alcohol use by sexual orientation in Tiverton, we do know that nationwide surveys report that LGBT students are at a higher risk of substance use than their peers. Tiverton High School has a thriving Gay-Straight Alliance organization and the STOP grant will be used to build the GSA’s capacity to prevent alcohol use among the LGBT community, as well as their friends who support them.

**Changes coming.** Recently, Rhode Island announced a statewide restructuring of prevention efforts. While each community will still receive funds from the Rhode Island Substance Abuse Prevention Act (RISAPA), communities will organize prevention efforts on a regional basis.

Rebecca Elwell was selected to coordinate efforts among the Newport County communities. She will remain the grant manager for both the DFC and STOP grants in Tiverton and the Coalition has begun to advertise for a new coordinator to assume day-to-day responsibilities. If you or someone you know may be interested in this part-time and rewarding position, please request details from Rebecca.

**5 More Years.** The Coalition to keep kids drug-free has accomplished so much in the last five years. It does take cash to promote prevention but more importantly it takes a community, dedicated to keeping kids safe, healthy and drug-free. If you are now involved in our mission, thank you. And if you’re not, there’s never been a better time to start.



### THE GRANTS AT A GLANCE

#### STOP Grant

**Award:** 4 Years, \$47,145 per year

**Goal:** Prevent and reduce alcohol use among youth

**Focus:** 8th, 9th, and 11th graders and LGBT students

#### DFC Grant

**Award:** 5 Years, \$125,000 per year

**Goal:** Prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug use among youth

**Focus:** Middle and high school students, plus 12 community sectors

