



FACT SHEET

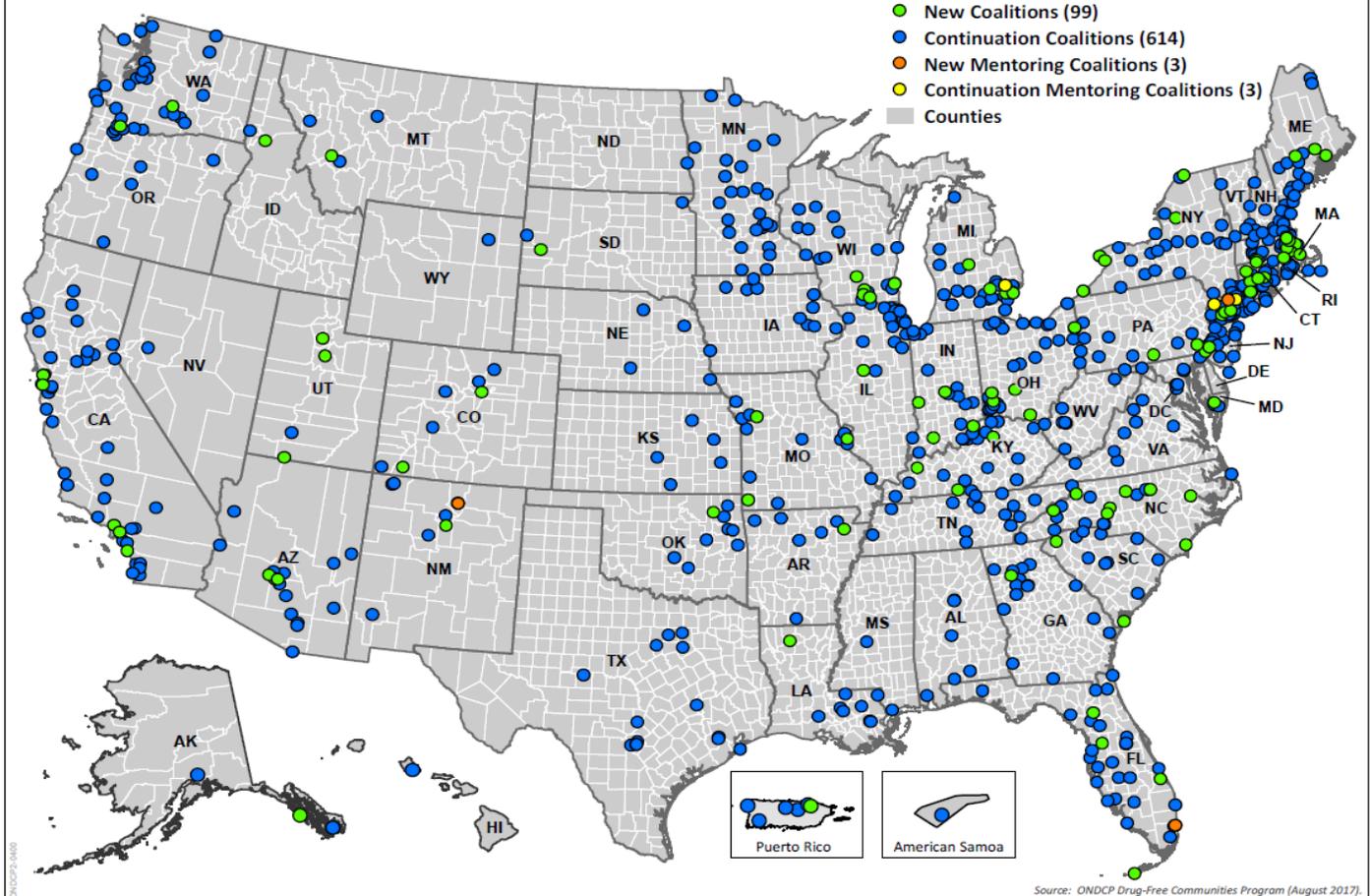
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Drug-Free Communities Support Program

The Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program, created by the Drug-Free Communities Act of 1997, is the Nation's leading effort to mobilize communities to prevent youth substance use. Directed by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the DFC Program provides grants to community coalitions to strengthen the infrastructure among local partners to create and sustain a reduction in local youth substance use.

According to 2015 data, an estimated 3,200 young people per day between the ages of 12 and 17 used drugs for the first time in the preceding year.¹ Research also indicates that high school seniors are more likely to smoke marijuana than cigarettes.² 88% of DFC coalitions indicate that they focus on heroin, prescription drugs, or both, which is reflective of the ongoing national opioid crisis.³ Furthermore, 16% of high school seniors in 2016 reported binge drinking (i.e., 5 or more drinks in a row) in the past two weeks.⁴

719 Drug-Free Communities Program Coalitions for Fiscal Year 2017



Recognizing that local problems need local solutions, DFC-funded coalitions engage multiple sectors of the community and employ a variety of environmental strategies to address local substance use problems. DFCs involve local communities in finding solutions and also helps youth at risk for substance use recognize the majority of our Nation's youth choose not to use substances. In fact, more high school youth in DFC communities report not using alcohol or marijuana as compared to youth nationally.⁵

ONDCP seeks to foster healthy individuals and safe communities by effectively leading the Nation's effort to reduce drug use and its consequences.

The Solutions are in the Community

To increase local community participation in efforts to reduce substance use among youth aged 12-17, the DFC Program requires funded coalitions to include active participation from 12 sectors of the community:

- ❖ Youth
- ❖ Parents
- ❖ Law enforcement
- ❖ Schools
- ❖ Businesses
- ❖ Media
- ❖ Youth-serving organizations
- ❖ Religious and fraternal organizations
- ❖ Civic and volunteer groups
- ❖ Healthcare professionals
- ❖ State, local, and tribal agencies with expertise in substance abuse
- ❖ Other organizations involved in reducing substance abuse

- Coalition members conduct ongoing community assessments to prioritize efforts to prevent and reduce youth substance use. These assessments are used to plan and implement data-driven, community-wide strategies that address these complex social issues.
- The DFC Program requires funded coalitions to employ environmental strategies – broad initiatives aimed at addressing the entire community through the adaptation of policies and practices related to youth substance use.

Providing Support for Communities

- In FY 2017, ONDCP awarded 719 grants, the highest number in the program’s history. As a result, DFC funded 99 new, 614 continuation grants for coalitions already in a five-year cycle, 3 new DFC Mentoring grants, and 3 continuation DFC Mentoring grants. The DFC Mentoring grants provide funding to existing grantees to help new coalitions become strong enough to apply for DFC funding on their own.
- In FY 2016, DFC funded community coalitions served approximately 61.7 million, or 20% of the population of the United States. That is, nearly one in five youth was living in a community with DFC in 2016 (19.7% of all United States youth at the middle school level and 19.7% of all youth at the high school level).⁶
- Community coalitions that are at least six months old can apply for up to \$125,000 per year for up to five years. Each coalition can apply for two cycles of funding, for a maximum of 10 years.
- To be eligible for DFC funding, coalitions must comply with a minimum one-to-one match requirement, thus doubling the Federal investment. The matching amounts – whether in-kind, donations, or cash – must come from non-Federal sources.
- Grants Management Specialists and Government Project Officers from SAMHSA serve as primary points of contact for DFC-funded coalitions. Additionally, SAMHSA monitors DFC-funded coalitions for fiscal and administrative grant compliance, conducts site visits, and provides support for financial issues.

¹ SAMHSA. Results from the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables (September 2016) available here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-DefTabs-2015/NSDUH-DefTabs-2015/NSDUH-DefTabs-2015.pdf>

² University of Michigan. Monitoring the Future Study (December 2016) available here: <http://monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/mtf-overview2016.pdf>

³ ICF International. (2017). Drug-Free Communities Support Program, 2016 DFC National Evaluation End-of-Year Report. Office of National Drug Control Policy. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/Drug-Free-Communities-Support-Program>

⁴ University of Michigan. Monitoring the Future Study (December 2016) available here: <http://monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/mtf-overview2016.pdf>

⁵ YRBS data corresponding to DFC data are available only for high school students on the measures of 30-day use, and only for alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. YRBS is a nationally representative survey which includes sample respondents drawn from both DFC and non-DFC communities. YRBS data are collected in odd years and comparisons here are for the years from 2003 to 2015. DFC results are based on the coalitions that reported collecting core measures data in a given year. For more information on YRBS data please see <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyYouth/data/yrebs/index.htm>. Comparisons examine confidence intervals (95%) for overlap between the two samples.

⁶ ICF International. (2017). Drug-Free Communities Support Program, 2016 DFC National Evaluation End-of-Year Report. Office of National Drug Control Policy. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/grants-programs>

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