

# NEWS RELEASE



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## ***Three Oregon counties receive national awards for their work in prevention***

The Department of Human Services Addictions and Mental Health Division applauds the work of Estacada Community Coalition, Clackamas County Prevention Coalition, and Grant County Safe Communities Coalition. The prevention groups in each of the counties are the newest recipients of the 2010 Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program grants.

Each of the counties received a \$125,000 federal grant for the next five years. According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), this year was the most competitive grant process in recent history.

The Estacada group was the only newly funded coalition in Oregon. The Clackamas county coalition has mentored the Estacada community for more than two years in assessing the community substance abuse issues, developing the capacity of coalition members, and preparing a community-specific action plan for Estacada. All their hard work paid off with the recognition that comes with the DFC grants.

This year, Clackamas County's Prevention Coalition is one of 16 new DFC Mentoring grantees across the nation. In addition to the DFC award, Clackamas County will receive \$75,000 for up to two years for its work mentoring program.

Grant County's Safe Communities Coalition was awarded a grant for the sixth consecutive year. The coalition has made great strides in its work to reduce underage drinking. The group's efforts have contributed to a 40 percent reduction in 11th grade drinking during the past five years of its DFC work.

Currently, there are 24 Drug Free Communities grantees in Oregon.

Karen Wheeler, the state's Addictions Program administrator, commends the work being done by all of the Drug Free Communities in Oregon and says, "This magnitude of work helps to strengthen prevention and builds a strong foundation for our state."

The DFC program was created by the Drug Free Communities Act of 1997, and was reauthorized by Congress in 2001 and 2006. Since 1998, ONDCP has awarded approximately 1,600 Drug Free Communities grants.

Coalitions are comprised of community leaders, parents, youth, teachers, religious and fraternal organizations, health care and business professionals, law enforcement, and the media.

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