

Community Engagement Notes FS

- Drug Free Communities (DFC) funding opportunities are out there for coalitions; apply, apply, apply.
- Try to join an existing coalition, it can be more impactful than trying to work individually.
- If a coalition doesn't exist, contact the nearest one and find out how you can start one in your community.
- Use federal resources that the Office of National Drug Control and Policy (ONDCP) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) offer and get in touch with partners such as Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA).
- Think about what events would actually make a difference in your community; handing out fliers may not be the best use of your limited time and resources.
- Local problems require local solutions; people support what they helped create.
- Identify your influencers (allies and champions who can support and promote your work).
- Although it might be difficult getting into schools to educate students, don't give up because sooner or later someone will listen.
- Educating parents is an important first step to educating youth.
- People don't know what they don't know so continue promoting your messages and educating people about the dangers of fake pills.