

NEWS RELEASE

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Tri-Town Council to Benefit from National Drug Free Communities Grant in Partnership with DanversCARES

Topsfield, Mass. (September 26, 2011) – The Tri-Town Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, a program of the Tri-Town Council, will benefit from a new Drug Free Communities Mentoring Program grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. DanversCARES was awarded one of 21 grants funded nation-wide, the purpose of which is to “mentor” a new drug free coalition in its start-up phase. The Tri-Town Council, in process of building a drug free coalition, collaborated with DanversCARES on the grant. This 2-year grant will build a stronger community coalition to better serve the youth and families of Boxford, Middleton, and Topsfield.

“DanversCARES has been very successful and we are thrilled to be able to tap into their experience,” said Lisa Teichner, Executive Director, Tri-Town Council, whose mission is to reduce and prevent at-risk behavior and to strengthen the social and emotional well-being of Tri-Town youth.

The Tri-Town Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is dedicated to the prevention of youth substance use. Tri-Town Coalition members include educators, law-enforcement, health professionals, parents, faith-based, business partners and social workers, all coming together for this purpose. The Coalition was formed 18 months ago and members have worked together to establish its mission, goals, and next steps.

When the Tri-Town Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition began to take shape almost two years ago, Teichner called on DanversCARES for guidance in moving the Coalition forward. Since that time, DanversCARES has worked intermittently with the Tri-Town Council by facilitating planning sessions and providing technical assistance in forming a solid, effective coalition. “We have a wealth of experience and some solid local successes to build on,” said Peg Sallade, Project Director, DanversCARES. “Why reinvent the wheel? We are happy to share our expertise with neighboring communities.”

Teichner agrees. “We knew DanversCARES had created an effective program for their community and wanted to learn from their team. This Mentoring Grant will afford us the ability to mobilize and move our Coalition forward.”

The monetary award is granted to DanversCARES, with Tri-Town Council having access to funding for program development, community assessment, training and professional consultation related to Coalition activities. Mentoring activities will support and encourage the development of strategies designed to prevent youth substance use. The primary goals of the mentoring grant are to assist the Tri-Town Council in strengthening its community coalition so that they are able to apply for Drug-Free Communities funding on their own through achievement of the following objectives:

- Strengthening organizational structure
- Increasing coalition leadership and community readiness to address youth substance use concerns
- Assisting in a strategic planning process that will result in a comprehensive Tri-Town community action plan.

For more information about the Tri-Town Council, please visit www.tritowncouncil.org

For more information on DanversCARES, please visit www.danverscares.org.

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About Tri-Town Council

Tri-Town Council is 501 (c) (3) non-profit serving the communities of Boxford, Topsfield and Middleton, Massachusetts. We collaborate with parents, schools, youth, law enforcement, community organizations and area resources to identify needs and provide proactive solutions which support and empower youth to make healthy and safe decisions. Through student workshops, adult education programs, after-school enrichment and sponsored programs, the Tri-Town Council reaches thousands of students, parents & educators each year.

About DanversCARES

DanversCARES is a partnership for a healthy community. Our mission is to assist all of our youth and their families in making informed healthy decisions, to reduce youth substance abuse, and to ensure the future of a safe, healthy community. We work toward this by encouraging collaboration, expanding programs and services for youth and families, and by supporting sustainable change.