



Northeast Communities Against Substance Abuse

559 Hartford Pike · Suite 210B · Dayville, CT 06241 · 860-779-9253 · Fax 774-0827
www.necasaonline.org · necasa@snet.net

Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Bob Brex and I am the Executive Director of Northeast Communities Against Substance Abuse.

Northeast Communities Against Substance Abuse (NECASA), the Regional Action Council for the twenty one towns in Northeast Connecticut currently has three direct federal grants, a Drug-Free Community Support Grant, a Drug-Free Mentoring Grant; which allowed NECASA to help the Town of Putnam and the Town of Windham get their own Drug-Free federal grants, and a federal underage drinking grant. We use our State and local funding to help match these grants.

NECASA has the data to prove the reduction in current use of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana in the Northeast corner. The Consultation Center at Yale University analyzed data from nine years of NECASA's student surveys and the comparison between the first round of surveys (2000-2004) and the second round (2005-present) showed a reduction in lifetime use, 30 day (current) use and an older age of initiation by 9th and 10th grade students.

- Alcohol was delayed from 14.15 years old to 14.47 years old
- Cigarettes were delayed from 14.85 years old to 15.55 years old
- Marijuana was delayed from 15.61 years old to 16.08 years old
- Those reporting any lifetime use of alcohol decreased from 64.1% in the previous sample to 55.1% in the current sample.
- Lifetime use of cigarettes has decreased from 40.4% to 27.7%
- Lifetime use of marijuana has decreased from 33.4% to 23.4%
- Those reporting no current use (within the last 30 days) of alcohol has increased from 63.9% to 73.1%
- Those reporting no current use of cigarettes has increased from 80.9% to 88.7%
- Those reporting no current marijuana use has increased from 78.2% to 86.3%

NECASA has funded changes in 8 school systems to evidence-based prevention curriculums, and well as currently funding fifteen middle school projects across the twenty-one towns.

NECASA is a prime example of how RACs (Regional Action Councils) do a lot for their communities. The organization runs programs, funds programs and assists all levels of the community in their response to substance misuse and abuse.

I ask you to restore the RAC's funding to properly allow us to continue our effective community work.