



Partners for a Drug Free Chisago County coalition members learn about new grant to prevent underage drinking.
With the commitment of the coalition and our members, we can complete this work plan!

Coalition Awarded Grant to Prevent Underage Drinking!

The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has awarded a grant to Community Partnership and the Partners for a Drug Free Chisago County Coalition. “This is a tremendous opportunity to continue the great work of the coalition, and to bring more attention to the serious challenges presented by underage drinking in our communities,” stated Community Partnership’s Executive Director, Tom Koplitz. “With only 79 grants funded nationally and only 3 in Minnesota, this is great recognition of the work of our coalition! The fact that 9th and 12th grade alcohol use in Chisago County is down by 10% over the past year is a direct result of over 80 partners working together to carry out a coordinated, comprehensive plan.”

The grant is a \$50,000 award and is designed to prevent and reduce underage drinking in Chisago County. The strategies are designed to change local attitudes and norms around underage drinking, and to re-evaluate existing laws and policies. “Underage drinking is still too common and ‘accepted’ in our communities. The problems caused by underage drinking are significant.” Koplitz cited the casual attitudes of teens, parents, and communities as contributing to the problem. “All adults need to be more persistent in spreading the non-use expectation, and this includes parents, coaches, employers and all community members.”

Our *Chisago County Needs Assessment* will be on the website soon! Check it out at www.cpyf.org

Let’s see if we can get the number of partners up over 125! Please spread the word that individuals, families, churches, businesses and any community member can sign on as an official partner. An endorsement form is attached. The more partners, the stronger the coalition and the more likely to make an impact (not to mention increased opportunities for funding!).

Action needed ↗

Complete the attached form with the grant activities listed and let us know where you’d like to focus your efforts! We’ll announce progress and challenges at the January 15th Partners session.

Thank you for all the great work being done by Partners for a Drug Free Chisago County. People, working together really can accomplish anything - Let’s keep after it!



**Next Partners Meeting:
 Thursday, January 15th 11:30 - 1:00**

Partners for a Drug Free Chisago County is a formal arrangement for cooperation and collaboration between groups or sectors of the community, in which each group retains its identity but all agree to work together toward a common goal - building a drug free Chisago County.

