



# Reducing Youth Substance Use in Ashland

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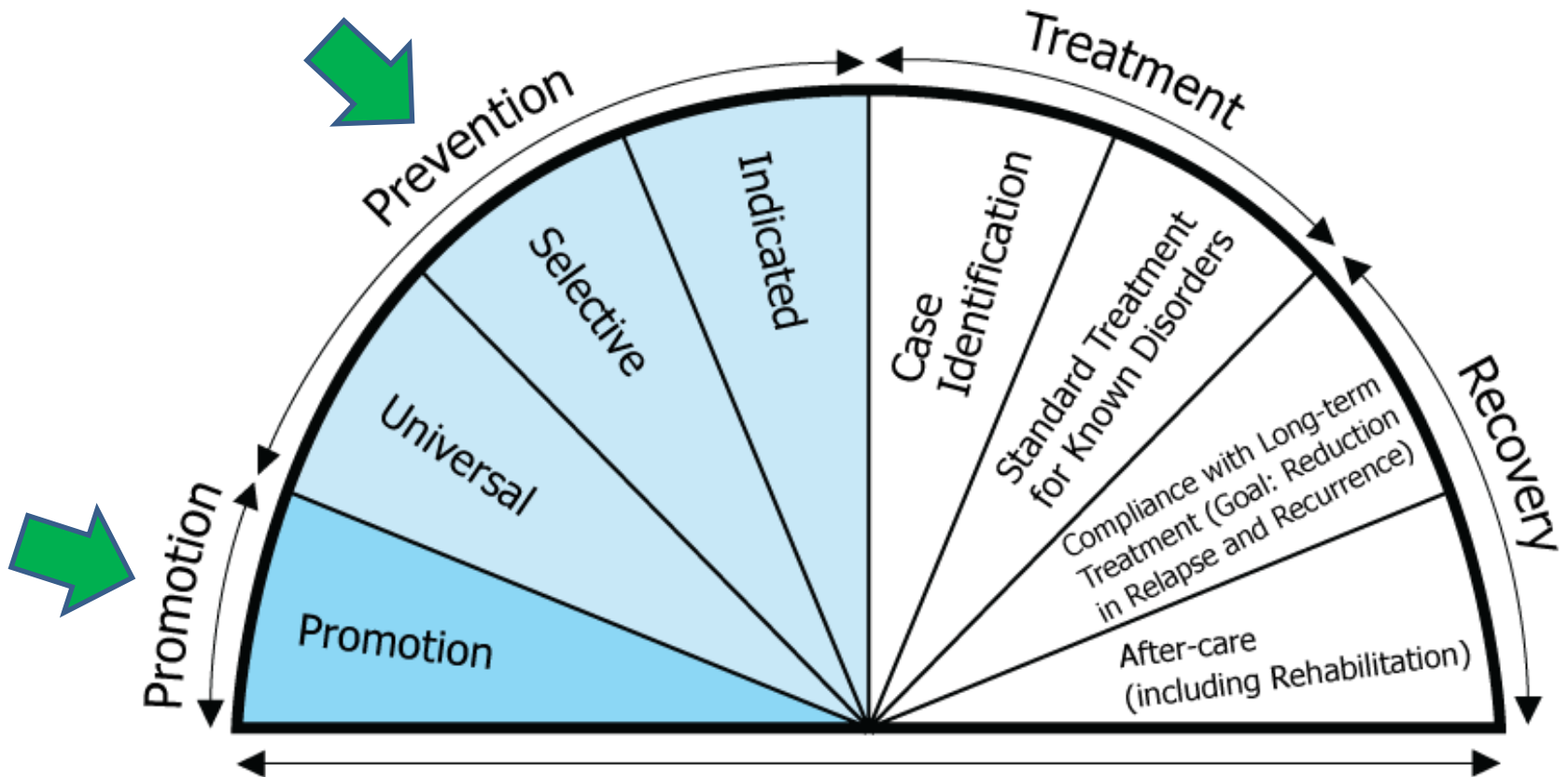


**Vision:** The Decisions at Every Turn Coalition is dedicated to creating a safe and healthy Ashland by working as a community to prevent, reduce and solve the problems that can lead to youth substance use.

# Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention are Critical to Reducing Addiction Rates

***“We cannot treat our way out of the Opioid Epidemic”***

—Sue Thau, Public Policy Consultant with Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America



The Behavioral Health Continuum Model, SAMHSA

# Federal Drug Free Communities (DFC) Program

- Federal funding (\$625,000/5 years) combined with a local match of resources and volunteer support can reduce youth drug use
- By mobilizing community leaders to identify and respond to the substance use issues unique to their community, DFC is designed to change the entire community environment

## DFC-funded coalitions:

- develop and implement a plan that is community-focused; not focused only on individuals

# Collaboration Across Community Sectors

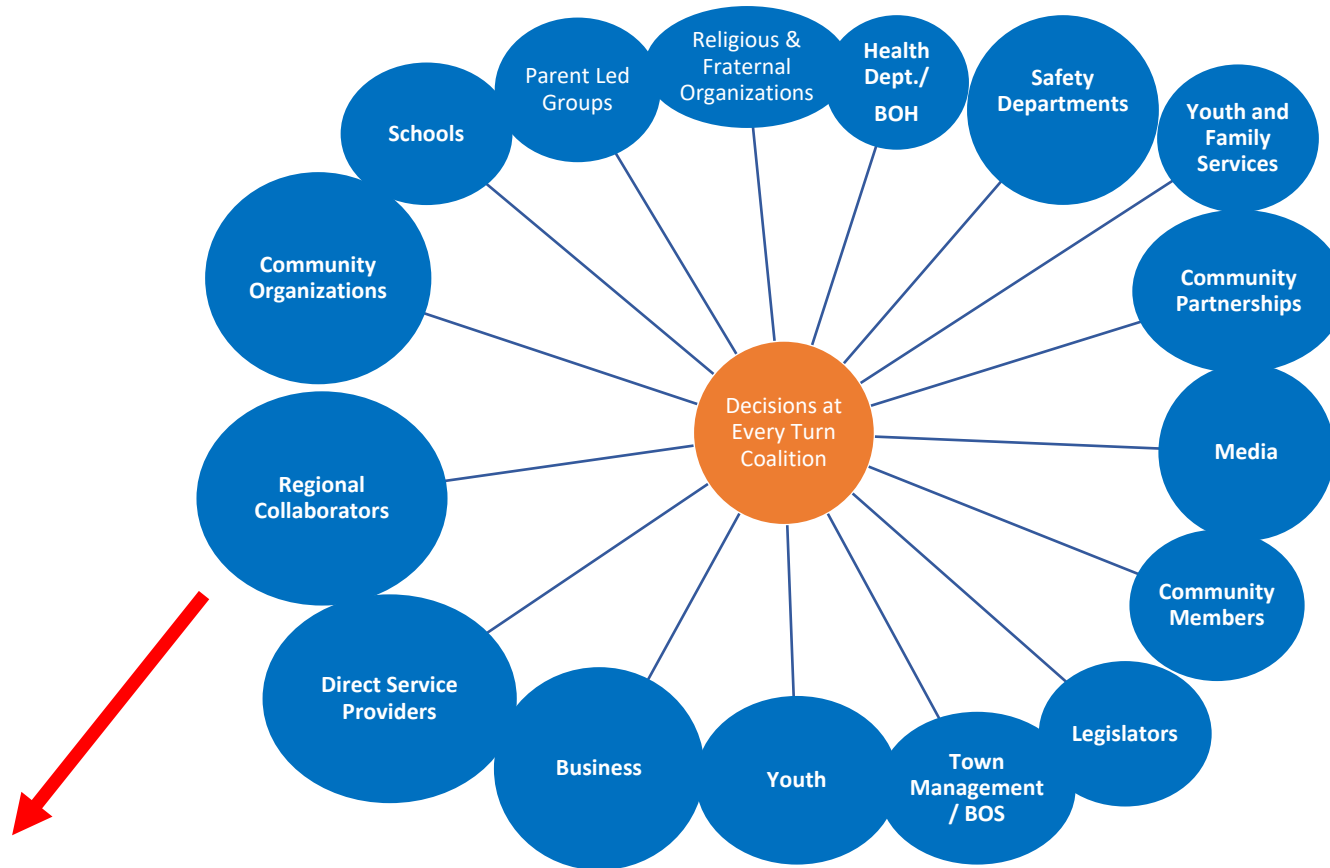
1. Youth
2. Parents
3. Business: Ashland Business Association
4. Media: *Ashland Directions*
5. School: Ashland Public Schools
6. Youth Serving Organization: Ashland Youth & Family Services
7. Law Enforcement: Ashland Police Department
8. Religious/Fraternal Organizations: Federated Church & NorthStar Masonic Lodge
9. Civic/Volunteer Group: The Friends of The Ashland Public Library
10. Healthcare Professional: Head Nurse- Ashland Public Schools
11. State/Local/Tribal Government with expertise in substance abuse: Ashland Board of Health Representatives
12. Other Substance Abuse Organization: Local Certified Interventionist and Recovery Coach



# Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program Has Two Goals

- GOAL 1: Increase Community Collaboration
  
- GOAL 2: Reduce Youth Substance Use
  - 1) Tobacco
  - 2) Alcohol
  - 3) Marijuana
  - 4) Prescription Drug Misuse

# COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO OUR PREVENTION WORK



SAPC: Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative

MOAPC: Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative

MW SAPA: MW Substance Abuse Prevention Alliance

# KEY 5-YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS—Community Wide

Alcohol EDU- AHS 9th & 10th graders	Ashland Parent (Community) and Coalition Member Surveys	Community Programming & Events	Peer Leadership Program (AMS/AHS) Support
Alcohol Retailer Training with APD	BOH tobacco regulations	DAET Coalition Newsletters Fall 2014 – Fall 2017	Regional Collaborations: SAPC, MOAPC, MWSAPA
Anonymous People screening with HEROinU	CADCA Academy leadership trainings & certification	DAET Coalition Retreat	SADD Sticker Shock Campaign, Project Purple
Ashland Adolescent Health Survey	Coalition Meetings & Youth-Focused Coalition Meetings	Drug Take-Back Day & Prescription Drop Box with APD and Lions	STAND Youth-focused social norms campaign
Ashland Day & Ashland Farmers Market tables	Coalition Brochure: Ashland Makes Time for a Healthy Community	POWER Community Programming Series	Website: <a href="http://www.AshlandDecisions.org">www.AshlandDecisions.org</a>
AHS Positive Community Norms Survey	Collaborations: ASHPAC, Ashland PTO, Clocker Club	Media: Ashland Directions, Ashland Town Pages, MetroWest News, WACA	Working Groups
ASAP Meetings, Red Ribbon Week (AMS)	Community Conversations	Parenting for Prevention Tip Sheets	World Café Discussions



# Key Collaborative Efforts by DAET and Ashland Public Schools to Improve Health and Wellness

- Assessment and Vertical Alignment of Ashland Public Schools' Health and Wellness Curriculum
- Pilot Youth Diversion (Intervention & Education) Program
- DAET Provides Financial Support for:
  - Peer Leadership Programs at AMS and AHS, Breaking the Barriers Club, and Students Against Destructive Decisions
  - Awareness and Education Programs for AMS and AHS Students
  - Professional Development for Staff
- Ashland Public Schools:
  - Education and Awareness Programs (coupled with policies) for Students and Staff in the following topic areas
    - PBIS
    - Social emotional learning/mental health
    - Anti-bullying and verbal harassment/cultural sensitivity
    - Suicide prevention

# Collaboration is Critical

- Prevention Specialists and their community partners are working on proven prevention strategies in Massachusetts communities every day.
- Our prevention efforts are strongest, with efficient use of resources, when we work together across all sectors of our community.
  - In addition to the many community leaders, parents are absolutely critical to our prevention efforts!

# Please Take Our Survey for Parents/Guardians

- *English:* <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C9Z5G5Z>
- *Español:* <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C7PKVF3>
- *Português:* <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C9RHPNL>
- *Русский:* <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVR77MX>



[www.AshlandDecisions.org](http://www.AshlandDecisions.org)