

Purpose

The purpose of the Decatur Drug-Free Community Coalition is to address two major goals:

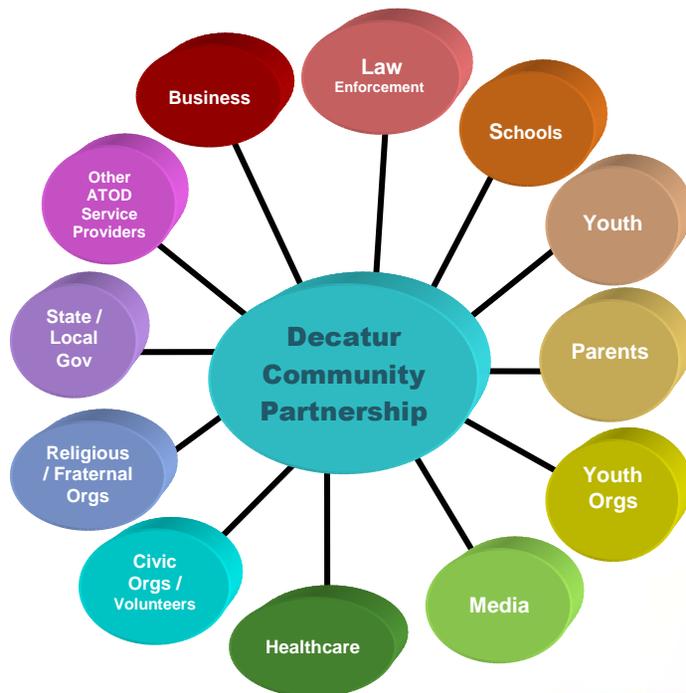
1. Establish and strengthen community collaboration for supporting coalition efforts to prevent and reduce negative behaviors among youth.
2. Reduce substance abuse among youth and, over time, reduce substance abuse among adults by addressing the factors in the community that increase the risk of substance abuse, and promoting the factors that minimize the risk of substance abuse. (Substances include, but are not limited to: narcotics, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, inhalants, marijuana, alcohol, and tobacco, where their use is prohibited by Federal, State, or local law. Substance may also include the non-medical use of prescription drugs or over-the-counter medicines.)

Vision

To improve the overall health and quality of life for Decatur/Macon County residents

Mission

The Decatur Drug-Free Community Coalition is committed to promoting collaborative programming among community organizations and individuals, and encouraging the integration of services to work toward a drug-free Decatur/Macon County.



Decatur Drug-Free Community Coalition is represented by all of the above sectors.

Decatur Drug-Free



Community Coalition

Managed by
Decatur Community Partnership

2000 North Main Street
Decatur, IL 62526

Located inside the Main Street
Church of the Living God

Committed to
promoting collaborative
programming and
working toward a drug-
free Decatur/Macon
County

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Overview

The Decatur Drug-Free Community Coalition is a community-based formal arrangement for cooperation and collaboration among groups or sectors of the community in which each group retains its identity, but all agree to work together toward a common goal of building a safe, healthy, and drug-free community.

The coalition works with the community to identify and address local youth substance use problems and create sustainable community-level change through environmental strategies. The Drug-Free Coalition is managed and staffed by the Decatur Community Partnership. Coalition meetings are held monthly and are open to the public.

The coalition is operated through community partners and is supported by various sources, including the Illinois Department of Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), local contributions, and partner in-kind services.

The Decatur Drug-Free Community Coalition currently provides collaborative programming using the seven strategies for community change:

1. **Providing Information** – (e.g., public announcements, brochures, dissemination, billboards, community meetings, forums, web-based communication).
2. **Enhancing Skills** – Workshops, seminars or other activities designed to increase the skills needed to achieve population level outcomes (e.g., training, technical

3. **Providing Support** – Creating opportunities to support people to participate in activities that reduce risk or enhance protection (e.g., providing alternative activities, mentoring, referrals, support groups or clubs).
4. **Enhancing Access/Reducing Barriers** – Improving systems and processes to increase the ease, ability and opportunity to utilize those systems and services (e.g., safety, healthcare, childcare, transportation, housing, justice, education, special needs, cultural and language sensitivity).
5. **Change Consequences** (Incentives/Disincentives) – Increasing or decreasing the probability of a specific behavior that reduces risk or enhances protection by altering the consequences for performing that behavior (e.g., public recognition for deserved behavior, individual and business rewards, taxes, citations, fines, revocations/loss of privileges).
6. **Physical Design** – Changing the physical design or structure of the environment to reduce risk or enhance protection (e.g., parks, landscapes, signage, lighting, outlet density).
7. **Modifying/Changing Policies** – Formal change in written procedures, by-laws, proclamations, rules or laws with written documentation and/or voting procedures (e.g., workplace initiatives, law enforcement procedures and practices, public policy actions, systems change within government, communities and organizations).

Subcommittees are established to work on the various strategies and other functions of the DFC Coalition.

The Decatur Drug-Free Community Coalition currently implements three communication campaigns to address youth substance abuse:



“Your Actions Matter”

is a campaign to encourage adults to help solve the problem of underage drinking, by not providing alcohol to minors. Preventing underage drinking is **everyone’s** responsibility!

KEEP THEM UNDER YOUR INFLUENCE



“Under Your Influence”

is a Parent Campaign that encourages parents to monitor their children’s activities (especially teens). Parents are also encouraged to talk to their teens about the dangers of underage drinking, and to make sure that their teens know how much they really care about their well being and the activities in which they are engaged!



“Let’s Talk”

is a Youth Campaign which provides education and awareness about the harms, dangers, and consequences of drug and alcohol use. The campaign encourages youth to engage in meaningful conversations with parents/caregivers and other responsible adults about these topics, and vice-versa.

Important information and various resources to assist youth, parents and community members with alcohol and drug prevention can be found at the following website:
<http://www.pbs.org/inthemix/411/411.html>