

Drug-Free Communities Coalition

GUIDE, Inc. is a partner organization in the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services , a community coalition with a major focus on the reduction of substance use among youth. In 2007, the Coalition became a Drug-Free Communities Coalition Grantee, receiving a 5-year, \$500,000 grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and SAMHSA. For more information about the Drug-Free Communities Support program, visit the DFC website.

Environmental Strategies

Environmental Strategies refer to substance use prevention strategies that focus on community-level change to reduce the incidence of abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. These changes address the conditions that put people at risk for substance use or that protect them from risk factors in their communities and families. Risk and protective factors for substance abuse are often the same for a number of issues – substance abuse, school dropout, teen pregnancy, delinquency and violence. By addressing these risk and protective factors, prevention efforts have the potential of improving conditions for entire communities.

GUIDE, along with the Gwinnett Coalition, is currently basing its environmental strategies on the evidence-based initiative Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA). This model program is focused on preventing underage drinking by reducing social and commercial access to alcohol by minors. Major components of this initiative include:

- Alcohol Sales Compliance Check Operations provided by the Gwinnett County Police Department

- Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS) Trainings for local alcohol licensed establishments

- Youth Leadership and Action , a program that provides leadership training and opportunities for youth to become actively engaged in their communities through service and volunteerism

- Public Awareness Media Campaigns, like SaveBrains.Org and Tobacco Free Babies

- Advocacy for changes in social hosting laws and ordinances, excise taxation and other policies that affect alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; this includes membership in the Georgia Coalition on Underage Drinking Prevention

