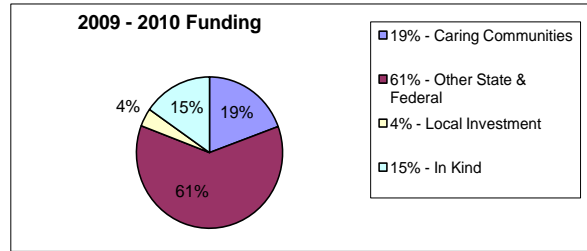


St. Joseph Youth Alliance

Established: 1995



FY10 Result Achievement: Reducing Youth Access to Alcohol

September 2010

Community Profile: The St. Joseph Youth Alliance is located in the City of St. Joseph, and works to positively impact issues relating to children, youth and families. Although many of our supports and services are central to Buchanan County, some of our initiatives provide services in the following Missouri counties: Andrew, Atchison, Caldwell, Clinton, Daviess, DeKalb, Gentry, Holt, Nodaway, and Worth.

Programmatically, the work of the Alliance focuses on the areas of early childhood education, youth mentoring, teen pregnancy and parenting support, child abuse prevention, youth volunteerism, youth asset development, youth leadership, and youth substance abuse prevention.

The 2009 census estimates a population of 89,856 for Buchanan County. Per capita income was \$30,990, nearly 25% lower than the U.S. average. 21.6% (2008) of children under 18 are estimated to live in poverty. 18.6% of those ages 25 and older lack even a high school diploma (U.S. is 17.6%).

The Alliance is a membership organization that is governed by a 15-member board of directors. Currently our partnership has 15 employees, 10 AmeriCorps Members, and is managed by an executive director who has the support of a leadership team. This team works to implement the policies set by the board of directors.

In an effort to create a drug-free community, the Alliance has supported a variety of strategies aimed at limiting youth access to alcohol. As a coalition, the Alliance works to positively change community attitudes and behaviors surrounding drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, ultimately encouraging youth to choose substance-free lives.

Major Accomplishments:

A key focus of the Alliance's work over the past year has been to reduce the easy availability of alcohol to minors in Buchanan County. Community laws and norms have been favorable to underage drinking and the Alliance has worked with many community partners to change these norms and to establish a public policy framework in line with the goal of reducing underage drinking. For the past three years the Alliance has focused on reducing the availability of alcohol through retail establishments.

New Community Ordinances:

Eight community changes were created in the past year that related to changing ordinances in Buchanan County and improving compliance checks. Changes ranged from creating an anonymous online reporting tool to creating a "300 foot" rule requiring notification of alcohol sales at catering events to all residences and churches within 300 feet, as well as an alcohol fence and security requirement.

Alcohol Server License:

A new ordinance was also passed that requires individuals within businesses who serve or sell alcohol to obtain a server license and attend Responsible Beverage Server training. If a licensed individual fails three compliance checks, they will lose their Server License for one year and be required to attend training. Additionally, if a business habitually fails compliance checks, a structure is now in place through the City of St. Joseph to suspend that business's liquor license.

Alcohol Compliance Checks:

The Alliance has worked with the St. Joseph Police Department to establish a regime of compliance checks. As shown below, checks conducted in 2007 had a very high failure rate. Failure rates trended down every six month period from inception. From January 2010 through June 2010, the partnership completed over 230 compliance checks, with a failure rate that dropped to 11 percent.

Compliance Checks, Buchanan County

