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## Liberty Alliance for Youth (LAFY) Awarded Renewed Federal Grant to Fund Prevention Work

The Drug-Free Communities Support Program has renewed a federal grant \$125,000 awarded to the Liberty Alliance for Youth to help fund their work in prevention.

LAFY is a group of volunteers from the fields of education, health and law, as well as the community at large, who are dedicated to creating an environment in which youth will avoid substances and choose healthy lifestyles.

The nationally acclaimed alliance of volunteers is supported by Tri-County Mental Health Services, and funded through grants and donations from community businesses and individuals.

LAFY first received the Drug-Free Community grant from the White House Drug Policy Office in 2014. To be considered for renewal of the federal grant, the coalition had to demonstrate successful outcomes for their prevention efforts.

The DFC Program was created by the Drug-Free Communities Act of 1997. It is the nation's leading effort to encourage individual communities to organize and create effective programs to reduce youth substance use.

LAFY programs, which are focused on community education and youth outreach, have received regional and national recognition for their positive impact on the community.

Among the successful prevention programs developed by LAFY this year are a social marketing campaign to educate parents on their impact as role models for healthy coping strategies, educating youth about healthy coping skills for stress management, and a peer-to-peer mentoring program to encourage youth to remain substance free.

"We are so pleased the hard work and dedication of our volunteers to educate our youth on the benefits of choosing healthy, substance free lifestyles continues to be rewarded," LAFY Program Director Kendra Callaway said.

The group, which holds monthly luncheon meetings to plan and create programs and events, welcomes anyone who lives or works in the Liberty area to join them.

For more information about LAFYI visit the website at [libertyalliance4youth.com](http://libertyalliance4youth.com) or contact Prevention Program Director Kendra Callaway at (816) 679-5361 or [kendra.callaway@gmail.com](mailto:kendra.callaway@gmail.com).