

SOCASA NEWS



SOCASA Wins \$125k Grant

On September 22, 2014 Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-Westchester/Rockland), the Ranking Member on the House Appropriations Committee, announced that SOCASA would receive a \$125,000 grant for youth anti-substance abuse initiatives through the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Program.

SOCASA was among 14 local organizations to receive a total of \$1.7 million in federal grants. Lowey said, “Our children deserve the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive in communities free of harmful substances. These Drug Free Communities grants will help prevent youth drug and alcohol abuse and, as Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee, I will continue fighting to ensure this important program receives the federal funding it deserves.”

Susan Maher, co-Director of Wellcore, Inc., which writes the grant applications for SOCASA and other Rockland coalitions, said, “These Drug Free Communities grants will help the coalitions provide education and prevention programming. We are excited to be able to maintain these programs to see even greater improvement over the next 5 years, and we thank Congresswoman Lowey for efforts to help fund these initiatives at the federal level.”

The federal grant was awarded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy Drug-Free Communities Program, which provides grants to community coalitions that facilitate citizen participation in local drug prevention efforts. Since 1998, ONDCP has awarded more than 2,000 Drug-Free Communities grants to local communities nationwide.

County Unveils New Prevention Plan

On September 15, Rockland County District Attorney Thomas P. Zugibe and County Executive Ed Day announced details of a newly developed community action plan to help battle the region's burgeoning heroin and prescription drug epidemic. The action plan, developed in close partnership with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), contains specific plans for Prevention and Education. Many have seen the striking billboard (pictured above) informing viewers that 16 Rockland residents have died this year from drug overdose. Sadly, the number has since gone up to 18.

The Rockland County District Attorney's Office is coordinating specialized training on "trends and treatment," offered by the DEA, the Rockland Council on Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependence Inc. (RCADD) and the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services. With this training, prosecutors will gain knowledge on the dangers and warning signs of heroin use and overdose death, treatment options and support groups, resources and prevention opportunities. In addition to educating prosecutors, the DEA and treatment partners will offer training to local law enforcement and school districts. In accordance with the DA's recommendations, South Orangetown's health education curriculum has incorporated information on heroin and prescription pill abuse and refusal skills into the high school and middle school health class curricula. Health teachers Susan Maher and Vickie Shaw will be having student presentations and Tappan Zee High School students are scheduled to receive presentations from community DA Tayna Gayle on the consequences of prescription drugs and the law. Assemblies are being coordinated by SOCASA, SOMS PTA and TZHS PTSA and school administration.

District Attorney Zugibe said, "In Rockland County, residents are more likely to die from a drug overdose than a traffic crash, statistically speaking. This must change. While we relentlessly pursue the criminals who profit from the pain and tragedy of others, this community action plan will allow us to stamp out this epidemic. Our broad coalition of public and private partners will work to raise awareness of the dangers of heroin and prescription abuse."

*Next SOCASA
Meeting
November 19*



The next SOCASA meeting will be held on

November 19 at 7pm

at Orangetown Town Hall,
26 W Orangeburg Rd,
Orangeburg, NY.

At this meeting we will cover:

- Law Enforcement
- Treatment
- Prescription Drug Symposium Night
- Student Report
- School Report
- Media Campaign
- Programs

All are welcome to attend!