

WASHINGTON, DC –“ Congressman Joe Courtney today announced that eastern Connecticut towns have secured \$250,000 in grant funding to prevent and reduce youth substance abuse. The First Selectman’s Task Force on Substance Abuse in Clinton and the Tri-Town Substance Abuse Prevention Council, which is comprised of Chester, Deep River and Essex, will each receive a \$125,000 grant from the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program.

“Keeping our youth drug free is an important part of preserving safe and healthy communities,” said Congressman Courtney. “This targeted funding will raise awareness of drug abuse in our communities, and create a public dialogue so the problem can be confronted. The leaders of these towns worked hard to secure this competitive funding, and their communities will benefit from their efforts.”

The DFC program provides grants of up to \$625,000 over five years to community coalitions that facilitate citizen participation in local drug prevention efforts. Coalitions are comprised of community leaders, parents, youth, teachers, religious and fraternal organizations, health care and business professionals, law enforcement and other leaders.

Clinton and the Tri-Town area are two of 169 new grantees selected from 521 applicants through a competitive peer-reviewed process. To qualify for matching grants, all awardees must have at least a six-month history of working together on substance abuse reduction initiatives, have representation from 12 sectors of the community, develop a long-term plan to reduce substance abuse and participate in the national evaluation of the DFC program.