

October 26, 2011

DIRECTIVE:	JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 11-26
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TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: EDNA PRIMROSE
National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, October 2011

1. Purpose. To remind the Job Corps Community that October is National Substance Abuse Prevention (SAP) Month, and to provide center staff and students with ideas and resources to support SAP Month.
2. Background. On October 3, 2011 President Barack Obama proclaimed October 2011 as National Substance Abuse Prevention Month. Each year, drug abuse and addiction cost taxpayers nearly \$534 billion in preventable health care, law enforcement, crime, and other costs.¹ The best approach to reducing the tremendous toll substance abuse exacts from individuals, families, and communities is to prevent the damage before it occurs.

A Department of Labor report reveals substance abuse costs American businesses approximately \$81 billion annually in lost productivity, absenteeism, and accidents.² It also causes an annual loss of 500 million workdays due to employee substance abuse. The U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration statistics found that more than 60 percent of adults know someone who has worked under the influence of alcohol or drugs.³

Job Corps has taken a strong stance against substance abuse, and every Job Corps center has at least one full-time addiction specialist called a Trainee Employee Assistance Program (TEAP) Specialist. Each center has a comprehensive program focused on assisting our students in improving their awareness of the impact of substance abuse on employability. Prevention

¹ National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), A Research Update from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. March 2007. <http://drugabuse.gov/tib/prevention.html>

² Department of Labor (DOL). Drug-Free Workplace Advisor- elaws. <http://www.dol.gov/elaws/asp/drugfree/benefits.htm>

³ U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k2State/PDFW/2k2SAEW.pdf>

efforts are emphasized, and assessments of and interventions with students involved with substances are made. Job Corps has a zero tolerance policy for possession and use of illicit substances.

3. Recommendations. Job Corps has always done an excellent job supporting substance abuse prevention. Here are some additional suggestions and resources for centers to enhance and expand upon their current prevention activities:

- Participate in Red Ribbon Week (see <http://redribbon.org/about> for specific suggestions);
- Hold a health fair with a specific focus on substance abuse prevention;
- Bring in guest speakers from the community;
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has many easily obtained and free resources on its website (<http://www.samhsa.gov/index.aspx>);
- Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) features many ideas about campaigns and innovative activities (<http://www.sadd.org/campaign.htm>);
- The Above the Influence Campaign is an excellent resource for general prevention activities, as well as those specific to Substance Abuse Prevention Month (<http://www.abovetheinfluence.com>).

4. Action. Addressees are to ensure this Information Notice is distributed to all appropriate staff.

5. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

6. Inquiries. Inquiries should be directed to Carol Abnathy at (202) 693-3283 or abnathy.carol@dol.gov, or Johnetta Davis at (202) 693-8010 or davis.johnetta@dol.gov.

Attachment

National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, 2011 proclamation