

August 29, 2012

DIRECTIVE:	JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 12-11
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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 2012, and Above the Influence Day on October 18, 2012

1. Purpose. To remind the Job Corps community that October is National Substance Abuse Prevention (NSAP) Month. This year we celebrate the first Above the Influence (ATI) Day on October 18, 2012 as part of NSAP Month. This Information Notice provides center staff and students with ideas and resources to support NSAP Month, as well as ATI Day.

2. Background. Last year, President Barack Obama proclaimed October as National Substance Abuse Prevention Month. Each year, drug abuse and addiction cost taxpayers more than \$600 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 revealed 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. The U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) statistics found that more than 60 percent of adults know someone who has worked under the influence of alcohol or drugs.³ Of the 20.2 million current illicit drug users ages 18 or older in 2010, 13.3 million (65.9 percent) were employed either full or part time.⁴

¹ National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), DrugFacts: Understanding Drug Abuse and Addiction. March 2011. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/understanding-drug-abuse-addiction>

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. 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k2State/PDFW/2k2SAEW.pdf>

⁴ U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k10NSDUH/2k10Results.htm#2.10>

Above the Influence is a program of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. The ATI campaign has been reaching teens for more than 7 years through television, print, radio, and online media. ATI's efforts in local communities focus on connecting directly with teens and local youth-serving organizations to deliver messages, activities, and support to help the nation's youth stay "above the influence" of drugs, alcohol, and other risky behaviors.

Multiple scientific findings indicate that teens who have increased exposure to and engagement with the Above the Influence campaign have stronger anti-drug beliefs, and are significantly associated with reduced drug usage.

ATI Day will be a time to celebrate youth living the Above-the-Influence lifestyle, as well as recognize the power of prevention efforts in local communities. This new annual tradition will reinforce ATI as a central substance abuse prevention tool on the national level, among community partners, key stakeholders, and youth around the country.

Job Corps has taken a strong stance against substance abuse, and every Job Corps center has at least one addiction specialist called a Trainee Employee Assistance Program (TEAP) Specialist. Each center has a comprehensive program focused on assisting students with improving their awareness of the impact of substance abuse on employability. Prevention efforts are emphasized, and assessments and interventions with students involved with substances are made. Job Corps has a zero-tolerance policy on possession and use of illicit substances.

3. Recommendations. Job Corps has always done an excellent job supporting substance abuse prevention. Below are some additional suggestions and resources for centers to enhance and expand upon their current prevention activities for both NSAP Month and ATI Day.

- To learn more about what you can do in your community on ATI Day, register to participate in a training and instruction webinar held on **Thursday, September 6, or Wednesday, September 12, at 1 p.m. EDT**, using the links below. The webinar will feature local groups and coalitions who have implemented successful ATI events. Links for webinar registration:
 - Thursday, Sept 6; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EDT:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/440791544>
 - Wednesday, Sept 12; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EDT:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/550251569>
- The Above the Influence campaign is an excellent resource for general prevention activities, as well as those specific to National Substance Abuse Prevention Month <http://www.abovetheinfluence.com>.
- For additional information on Above the Influence, and to download the ATI activities toolkit and other free resources, visit <http://www.ATIPartnerships.com>.
- Participate in Red Ribbon Week: <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.
 - 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>.
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.