



## **FY 2010 FEDERAL FUNDING ALERT**

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR U.S. SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES TODAY AND ASK THEM TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAMS**

**MESSAGE:**

Investing in programs that prevent and treat alcohol and drug addiction saves lives and improves the health, safety and well-being of our communities; please increase funding for alcohol and drug programs in the House and Senate Labor HHS spending bills by supporting the field-recommended funding levels listed below. It is critical in these difficult economic times that the community-based organizations that provide essential addiction prevention, treatment and recovery services be adequately funded.

**ACTION:**

Please call, fax or email your U.S. Senators and Representatives, especially Members of the Appropriations Committees (lists attached), and ask them to support the field funding requests for the alcohol and drug programs listed below. A sample model letter is copied below; please feel free to insert information specific to your area. Find your Members of Congress by visiting [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org) or by calling the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate are now crafting the FY 2010 spending bills. Members will be making decisions about funding priorities over the next few weeks. **In these challenging economic times, critical programs will not receive increased funding without your support.** Below are the field funding requests for drug and alcohol prevention, treatment, education and research programs:

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY 2009 Funding Level</b>	<b>Field Request for FY 2010</b>
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant	<b>\$1.7786 billion</b>	<b>\$1.929 billion</b> (\$150 million increase over FY 2009)
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)	<b>\$414.3 million</b>	<b>\$489.3 million</b> (\$75 million increase over FY 2009)
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)	<b>\$201 million</b>	<b>\$276.3 million</b> (\$75 million increase over FY 2009)
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) State Grants Program	<b>\$294.76 million</b>	<b>\$349.7 million</b> (\$55 million increase over FY 2009)
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	<b>\$450.23 million</b>	TBD, please request highest possible funding
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	<b>\$1.003 billion</b>	TBD, please request highest possible funding

**If you have any questions, please feel free to call Gabrielle de la Gueronniere at Legal Action Center, (202) 544-5478. Thanks for your help!**

DATE

*When addressing your Senators or Representative, use one of the formats indicated below:*

The Honorable (Full Name)  
The United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable (Full Name)  
The United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator\_\_\_\_\_:

Dear Representative\_\_\_\_\_:

Thank you for your continued support for alcohol and drug treatment, prevention, education and research programs. I am writing to ask your support for the funding levels listed below, which would provide increased funding for these critical programs through the FY 2010 appropriations process.

**Prevention pays off and is a critical part of the continuum of care.** Data from the National Institute on Drug Abuse's most recent Monitoring the Future survey indicates that youth attitudes about substance use are beginning to soften, which generally precedes an increase in drug use. Although rates for non-medical prescription drug use among adults are largely unchanged the past year, youth rates of prescription drug abuse have risen. We must continue to invest in the best treatment and prevention options and provide services that are evidence-based. Adequate drug and alcohol prevention services, including those provided by the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities State Grants program, need to be available for all young people to reduce their risks of poor health, diminished academic performance, and involvement in the juvenile justice system.

**The unmet need for alcohol and drug treatment services in America is overwhelming.** According to SAMHSA, in 2007, 23.2 million people, or 9.6 percent of the population, were classified with substance dependence or abuse. However, only 2.4 million, or just over 10 percent of those who needed treatment, received it at a specialty facility. Therefore, there were 20.8 million people, or 8.4 percent of the population, who needed treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol use problem but did not receive it. Over 40 percent of those who tried to get help for their addiction were denied treatment because of cost or insurance barriers. Such barriers mean that for many people, federal- and State-funded programs are the only means available to obtain treatment and prevention services. In many States, public spending accounts for more than 60 percent of the annual support for treatment and prevention services. The shortage of addiction treatment services results in waiting lists in many places, sometimes as long as six months.

**As the current financial situation worsens, drug and alcohol use is likely to increase as well.** As unemployment rates and other pressures increase, people at risk for substance use disorders will have even greater needs for life-saving prevention, treatment and recovery support services. Additionally, with hundreds of thousands of American service men and women currently on active duty in Afghanistan, Iraq and other areas of conflict, it is expected that the need for alcohol and other drug addiction treatment services for veterans will increase significantly. However, the community-based care system is not receiving funding proportionate to this on-going, increasing need.

The funding levels for which I am requesting your support include:

- \$1.929 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, the foundation of the publicly supported prevention and treatment system in this country.
- \$489.3 million for the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)
- \$276.3million for the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)
- \$349.7 million for the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities State Grants program
- Highest possible funding for research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

Your support of this entire continuum of programs is essential because all fronts of the battle against alcohol and drug addiction must be sufficiently funded to be successful. Investment in alcohol and drug treatment, prevention, education, and research will save lives and resources nationwide, and it will help America protect its health in challenging times. Thank you for your support of these essential programs.