

WASHINGTON – Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) announced today that the U.S. Department of Justice

The grant was awarded through the Justice Department’s Drug Free Communities Support Program.

“The South Berkshire Youth Coalition is a collaboration of organizations with a unified mission to reduce drug and alcohol use among youth in the South Berkshire region.

The South Berkshire Youth Coalition is a group of governmental agencies, human services organizations, and community groups.

The funding will allow the South Berkshire Youth Coalition to:

- expand the Second Step Program at Berkshire Hills Regional School District to grades 4 and 5,
- place a prevention counselor in Searles Middle School in Great Barrington,
- establish an inhalant abuse awareness program in the Southern Berkshire, Berkshire Hills and Western Berkshire school districts,
- create a youth program coordinator position at the Railroad Street Youth Project,
- enhance peer training programs in the Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills school districts,
- expand a social norms campaign in local high schools,
- continue the Barrington Stage Playwright mentoring program,
- develop a community-wide substance abuse prevention strategic plan, and
- hire a coalition coordinator to direct and oversee the coalition's activities.

For more information, contact Amanda Root, executive director of the Railroad Street Youth Project.

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