



Briefly the community impact team is a group of town employees and volunteers who meet to discuss and implement programs and strategies that address quality of life issues for all.

## Drug Free Communities Grant Goals

To use a broad range of 7 Strategies for Community Change to reduce youth use of

Alcohol

Marijuana

Tobacco

Prescription Drugs

To prevent substance use from starting



Tonight I am happy to report that the Town of North Reading, through the Community Impact Team, has received approval for our second year of federal funding which began just yesterday. The Drug Free Communities grant has very specific goals. It aims to use tested strategies to reduce youth substance use and prevent that use from even starting. Now starting our second year we are looking heavily at policies and social norms that can prevent substance and alcohol use among youth.

## Why a Social Host By-Law

- Educational opportunity
- Identified that adults have a general casual attitude about youth alcohol use
- Adults are providing alcohol to minors for in and out-of-home parties
- Senior past 30-day use
- Supports our aims to reduce alcohol and drugs



The details of the proposed by-law are in your Warrant. Instead of reviewing the specifics I'd like to let you know why the Community Impact Team has proposed this by-law. First, it provides us an opportunity to have an open and honest conversation and to provide educational opportunities to our youth, families and community. Over the past year, our coalition has worked on data collection. We learned that in general, adults have an increasing casual attitude about youth alcohol use. In addition, we know that adults, sometimes older siblings, are providing alcohol for youth in and out of the home. Finally, through our student survey taken this past February, 51.8% of our high school seniors reported using alcohol in the past 30 days. More than half. This is above the national average (33.2%). In addition, the number one location where youth said they use is at a friends house. We have further determined that this is not a police, youth services, family or school problem. This is a community norms problem. We've talked to in and out of state communities who have implemented similar social host by-laws with great success. In fact, it has been the number one recommended strategy for changing norms and consequences. It's important to know that this by-law doesn't just address alcohol but it addresses drugs as well. Again, we see this as an opportunity for education and AGAIN this is a proven strategy that has worked in other communities and recommended by prevention specialists. 2 weeks ago I completed the National Coalition Academy. This social host by-law is viewed as so effective that they brought in a research specialist, Dr. Mark Wolfson to speak to its importance. This is about prevention, not enforcement. This strategy in partnership with others we intend to pursue is proven to reduce youth alcohol use. The numbers are showing us that we have to act and we have to act now.

## Resources

Visit [www.northreadingma.gov/CIT](http://www.northreadingma.gov/CIT)

- PRIDE Survey presentation
- Social Host Workshop presentation
- Parent resources
- Recovery resources

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As I mentioned, we see this as an opportunity to provide some education and I'd like to refer you to our website for more details. As always, I'd like to say that if anyone you know OF ANY AGE needs help with recovery, please either visit our resource page or contact me. My information is listed here.