

For More Information Contact:

- Your Mayor or Governing Body
- Somerset County Dept. of Human Services:
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Coordinator (908) 704-6300
- Web: www.co.somerset.nj.us/hservices
- The Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug
Abuse (609) 777-0526

Department of Human Services Mission:

To coordinate and facilitate the provision of services and programs, which work to address economic self-sufficiency and promote social wellbeing of county residents.

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**SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



Somerset County

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCES



FOR THE PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE USE



Somerset County Department of Human Services

Office of Operations and Planning

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What is a Municipal Alliance?

A Municipal Alliance is a grassroots organization comprised of local citizens and community members interested in the prevention of drug and alcohol use.

Each municipality in New Jersey has the opportunity to organize a Municipal Alliance and receive state funding for substance use prevention programs from the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA).

Who are they?

The Municipal Alliances are comprised of volunteers from the community who dedicate their time to develop and implement programs that are an integral part in preventing drug and alcohol use among their residents. These programs reach out to people of all ages in the areas of recreation, education, and community aware-ness.

Our members are representatives from several sectors of the community, including (but not limited to) law enforcement, local government, school counselors and staff, parents, youth, local business, faith-based organizations, and private citizens with interest or experience in these issues.

What do they do?

Each municipality has a Municipal Alliance Committee (MAC) which collectively determines which programs to fund based on their community's needs.

Statewide, the Municipal Alliances exist in over 500 of New Jersey's municipalities offering over 2,000 prevention programs. Some examples of programs (either fully or partially funded) are:

- **Youth Programming** – Programs for at-risk youth (B Well, Boys Council, Girls Circle); youth conferences and trainings (Lindsey Meyer Teen Institute), and peer leadership organizations (such as RAAD [Ridge Against Alcohol and Drugs], Youth Council, SADD [Students Against Destructive Decisions]) and more.
- **Education Programs** – for parents, healthcare providers, educators, seniors, adolescents, children, and more.

Including (but not limited to) panel discussions, film screenings, interactive workshops, and more. Topics include parenting, cultural competence, drug trends, and mindfulness.

- **Community Awareness Campaigns** – aimed at educating others and reducing the stigma on substance use and mental health. Including (but not limited to) Parents Who Host Lose the Most, It's 21 For A Reason, Overdose Awareness Day, Stigma-Free Somerset.
- **Mental Health First Aid** – an evidence-based course which helps individuals recognize signs and symptoms of mental health crisis, as well as how best to assist somebody in crisis.

To join your local alliance,
contact:

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