

Rochester, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today announced that the HEART Coalition for a Drug Free Rochester was awarded \$125,000 to combat youth drug abuse in Rochester.

The HEART Coalition was one of 169 new grantees selected from 521 applicants through a competitive, peer-reviewed process. The award comes through the new Drug Free Communities Support Program (DFC) of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

“We all know that children who stay on a drug-free path are much more likely to become productive members of our community, contributing to our economic and cultural vibrancy,” said Slaughter. “Education and community involvement are vital components to the prevention and reduction of drug abuse. I’m so proud that the HEART Coalition for a Drug Free Rochester was recognized for not only developing an effective strategy to combat drug abuse, but for taking a positive, active role in developing the youth of our community which represent the future of Rochester.”

To qualify, awardees must have at least a six-month history of working together on substance abuse reduction initiatives, have representation from 12 specific sectors of the community, develop a long-term plan to reduce substance abuse, and participate in the national evaluation of the DFC program.

Gil Kerlikowske, Director of ONDCP, said, “Data show that community efforts to reduce youth substance use through the DFC program are effective. I commend coalitions like the HEART Coalition for a Drug Free Rochester, who work tirelessly to prevent and reduce youth drug use across the nation.”

The DFC program was created by the Drug Free Communities Act of 1997, and was reauthorized by Congress in 2001 and 2006. Since 1998, ONDCP has awarded approximately 1,700 Drug-Free Communities grants to local communities in all 50 states.