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CONTACT: LT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
850-488-4711

Florida Receives Major National Grant Award for Substance Abuse Prevention

~ Provides funding for grassroots efforts in six counties ~

TALLAHASSEE – Florida Lieutenant Governor Jeff Kottkamp announced today that Florida is the only state in the nation to receive a 2010 Prevention Partnership for Success Grant. The five year \$11.5 million award will fund substance abuse prevention planning and evidence based practices at the grassroots level within six of Florida's most populous counties.

"We're very pleased that Florida has gained additional resources to support its community prevention work," said Lieutenant Governor Kottkamp, who oversees the Office of Drug Control. He expressed his appreciation for the substance abuse prevention funding. "While we've seen positive progress at the state level, large counties struggle to achieve sustainable results in their most at-risk neighborhoods and communities."

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention grant will be administered by the Florida Department of Children and Families and will fund planning and implementation work in Duval, Orange, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Broward and Dade counties. Collectively these counties represent 47 percent of the state's 12-17 year olds. The grant also extends training and technical assistance on grant specific issues to the rest of the state.

"Prevention is a critical component in our efforts to curb substance abuse. It is the linchpin in our Florida Drug Control Strategy," said Office of Drug Control Director Grant who joined the Lt. Governor in making the announcement. .

"The Department is pleased to be able to enhance its ongoing work by helping the larger counties create successful community coalitions," said George Sheldon, Secretary, Florida Department of Children and Families, when learning of the award. "We know that community-based, data-driven decision making helps put research into practice more quickly and improves outcomes. "

The Florida Prevention Partnership for Success grant will include work with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice to support substance abuse prevention aimed at reducing incidences of youth violent crime and juvenile delinquency. The six counties will spend the next six to eight months examining the conditions associated with substance abuse and youth crime. They will then develop comprehensive community action plans using evidence based practices. The grant will then fund implementation and evaluation of the progress made by each community, the county and the state.

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