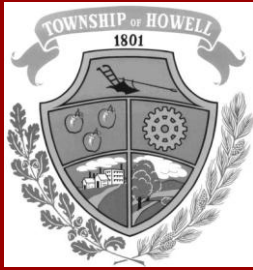


Howell Township Municipal Alliance



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HISTORY:

Formed in 1989 by new Jersey Governor Tom Kean, the state-wide Municipal Alliance program maintains its mission to make our community safer through proactively supporting safe and secure school, along with preventing drug and alcohol abuse. The Howell Township's Municipal Alliance (HTMA) is comprised of volunteers and representatives from various sectors of the community (education, health, law enforcements and civic and business organizations), who plan programs, educational awareness and events throughout our community to prevent drug, tobacco, and alcohol use amongst children, teens and adults. Ralph Hoffman serves as the HTMA coordinator since 2000.

Along with other municipalities statewide, the HTMA applies for federal grant funding through the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA), and organization subsidized by Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction DEDR fines collected from drug-related convictions at the municipal level. When allocating funds, the GCADA considers both the municipality's risk factors increasing youths' chance of engaging in risky behavior. Risk factors include economic and social deprivation, academic failure, and health problems. Protective factors are comprised of positive influences such as strong role models, solid family relationships, and autonomy.

To apply for their share of the money, the HTMA regularly completes needs assessment evaluations and prepares detailed applications and grants on behalf of our community. In turn, the HTMA uses awarded money to provide specific drug and alcohol prevention programs and events in Howell Township. The HTMA sponsors community organizations, the police

department, and schools such as “Parent Academy”, Police Athletic/Activities League programs (PAL), and Howell High School’s Adolescent Drug & Alcohol Prevention Tools (ADAPT) club. The HTMA, based on research, statistics, and data, identifies priorities and plans which preventative programs and initiatives would be most effective, the submits its strategies to Monmouth County. The Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) must give the plans its final stamp of approval. *

*Originally written by HTMA member Christa Riddle “All About Writing”, see her work in our newsletter “Prevention Press”, published by Diane Conti, DCI.