

Prom and Graduation Season Substance Abuse Prevention Strategies and Activities

Name and brief description of strategy or activity: Social Host Ordinance – Hold adults accountable for underage drinking that takes place in their home or on their property

How to get started: Conduct a needs assessment to determine a need for the ordinance. The findings can be used to garner support from community, elected officials, law enforcement, media, etc. Draft the ordinance in accordance with local laws, present to town/county/village attorney so that they can read it over for legality and then present it to the governing board for approval.

Resources needed: A member or two to take the lead and learn about Social Host laws and how they would fit into your community. Money to conduct a needs assessment, money for printing of the Issue Brief that contains the findings from your needs assessment. Advocates to gain support for the ordinance that would be will to spread the word and recruit champions.

People to get on board: Coalition members, law enforcement, media, community leaders and elected officials.

Steps to Success: It is important to move slowly and to do your research. Before approaching anyone that you want to support from, you need to be armed with information that details the need. Involve those people that you want on board in the planning process. Develop a good working relationship with the media. Paint a picture of the impact that a Social Host Ordinance can have on your community that would include quality of life issues such as lower crime, **less underage drinking**, fewer noise complaints for loud parties, less vandalism of property, fewer police calls and , most important, a safe healthy environment for young people.

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