

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that the Partnership for a Drug-Free Auburn has been awarded a \$100,000 federal grant from the Drug Free Communities Support (DFC) Program.

“As Oneida County District Attorney for 13 years, I saw first-hand how important it is to provide community organizations with the resources and support they need to keep our kids healthy and safe,” **said Arcuri**. “This funding will enable the Partnership for a Drug- Free Auburn to continue existing programs to monitor school drug and alcohol abuse, help parents take an active role in ending substance abuse, and expand existing community programs. Stopping drug addiction and alcohol abuse before it starts – with better school programs and community resources – will help Auburn long into the future. I am glad to see federal resources coming back to our area to make sure our children can learn and grow in a safe and healthy environment.”

The Partnership for a Drug-Free Auburn works to prevent and reduce youth drug and alcohol abuse in Auburn by implanting a comprehensive spectrum of informational, environmental and early intervention strategies to improve community risk factors and promote protective factors.

The Partnership will achieve its goals through a variety of strategies which include: engaging in a multi-faceted Coalition recruitment effort and sustainability plan that maximizes resources; conducting a multi-media public awareness campaign; introducing proven school curricula that prevent substance use; encouraging participation in after-school programs to delay the age of onset and reduce opportunities for use; reducing access to substances at school and from local merchants through targeted law enforcement activities; and working with Auburn City Court to implement a Juvenile Drug Court

“We are pleased that the community will continue to benefit from this funding. It means we have a good plan in place and we are excited to go forward,” **said Catherine Moran with Partnership for Results, Inc in Auburn**

. “This grant will enable us to continue our survey in the middle and high schools to track how programs in the community are helping to reduce alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco use. We are also hoping to branch out and do more educational initiatives with parents to help them help their children make the right choices.”

The Partnership was previously awarded a five-year direct communities grant.

The DFC program provides grants of up to \$500,000 over five years to community organizations that facilitate citizen participation in local drug prevention efforts. To qualify for matching grants, all awardees must have at least a six month history of working together on substance abuse prevention initiatives, develop a long-term plan to reduce substance abuse, and participate in national evaluation of the Drug-Free Communities Program.

In December of 2006, Congress passed and the President signed into law, a five-year extension of the Drug-Free Communities Act. Since 1997, ten competitions have awarded over \$450 million in grants to more than 1,000 community anti-drug coalitions. The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) administers the program in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Service's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA).

In July, Arcuri also voted in support of legislation to invest in community policing, juvenile courts, and neighborhood revitalization programs which provide grants for local law enforcement projects in the 24th district.

H.R. 3093 includes \$400 million for juvenile justice programs, \$62 million above the 2007 level. This includes funding for such items as \$100 million for competitive youth mentoring grants; \$81 million for delinquency prevention grants; and \$60 million for Justice Accountability Block Grants.

###