



## National Coalition Institute Ambassador Program

The Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) mission is to strengthen the capacity of community coalitions to create and maintain safe, healthy and drug-free communities. As a vehicle for coalition training, technical assistance, evaluation, research and capacity building, CADCA's National Coalition Institute (the Institute) works continually to help America's community anti-drug coalitions get smarter faster.

The Institute's two-year Ambassador Program illustrates one such effort. Its design is informed by our assessment of coalitions that identified the need to singularly focus on and expand our efforts to increase the number of coalitions in economically disadvantaged communities. Further assessments showed few young professionals from diverse communities enter the coalition field. To meet these two challenges, the Institute designed the Ambassador Program to increase and foster a new generation of prevention leaders.

Ambassadors receive extensive training at no cost to their related community coalition. Coalition leaders nominate individuals who apply and subsequently accepted into the program. Once accepted, coalition leaders, the Ambassador, and the Institute partner to develop and implement a rewarding academic experience. Program highlights are provided:

- **Ambassador Program Advisor** assists Ambassadors in customizing an Individual Leadership Plan that includes an assessment of skills, and charting academic progress and achievements. Input from the skilled coalition leader helps to complete the career development profile that reflects the needs of the Ambassador and coalition.
- **The Mid-Year Training Institute** is the starting point for all new Ambassador Cohorts. Ambassadors are provided focused, hands-on sessions, e.g., Prevention 101 and Core Essentials of the Strategic Prevention Framework – five elements that assist coalitions in developing the infrastructure needed for community-based, public health approaches leading to effective and sustainable reductions in alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use and abuse. Ambassadors make professional connections with others in their cohort learning community.
- **The National Coalition Academy** is a comprehensive, innovative yearlong training program. It combines three-weeks of classroom training, and Web-based support. Participants learn to: 1) assess their community; 2) create and maintain partnerships; 3) prevention planning; 4) strategy implementation and evaluation; 5) determine methods to fostering long-term change to create drug-free communities, while integrating cultural competence and sustainability in all elements of their work and learning. **By year one**, Ambassadors will have developed a community assessment, logic model, action plan, intervention, evaluation plan and a sustainability plan – tools essential for a highly-effective coalition seeking to attain population-level change.
- **National Leadership Forum** participation in the *first year* provides the Ambassador access to high-level training from national leaders in the community coalition field, and affords them the opportunity to serve as a spokesperson, and co-facilitate or support workshops with leaders in the field. **By year two**, Ambassadors will serve the Forum as mentors to the incoming cohort of Ambassadors, and support 12-18 year old youth leaders participating in CADCA's National Youth Leadership Initiative. The Forum is also the venue for the National Coalition Academy graduation, which completes the two-year academic experience.

CADCA anticipates the number of Ambassadors will increase at a rate that will double our 2009 enrollment given the marked interest from young adults and coalition leaders. Visit us at <http://www.cadca.org/about/programs-campaigns>.