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County Drug Coalition Wins \$100,000 Grant

The Baker County Prevention Coalition has won a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice and the Drug-Free Communities Support Program. The grant will strengthen the coalition's efforts to prevent and reduce the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco among young people.

The grant is one of 157 grants totaling nearly \$15

⁵⁰³⁸ million awarded through the Drug-Free Communities Support Program. The grant is renewable annually.

Ruth Whitnah, who is Baker County Health Department director and director of the county's Commission on Children and Families, said a number of people and groups have worked together for seven years toward the goal

of a drug-free community.

A year-2000 survey conducted by Children First for Oregon reported 16 percent of Baker County 8th graders reported using tobacco during the previous month, slightly above the state average; illicit drug use was 11 percent in the county's 8th graders, slightly below the state average.