



**DOUG  
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Office of the Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Governor's Office Of Youth, Faith And Family Launches Substance Abuse Prevention Program**

*"Healthy Families – Healthy Youth" Program Designed To Prevent Substance Abuse*

**PHOENIX** – As the new school year gets underway, the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family is announcing the launch of the "Healthy Families – Healthy Youth" substance abuse prevention pilot program for seventh grade youth and their families.

The pilot program will run in all 15 counties throughout the month of September offering early education and proven best practices across the state of Arizona.

The average age when Arizona youth begin to use an addictive substance is now 13 years old — and, with 90 percent of addicts starting to smoke, drink or use other drugs prior to age 18, it is clear that that early invention and education is a must.

"The best way to treat addiction is to get ahead of the problem and prevent it," stated Governor Ducey. "Bringing families together and educating them about the realities of substance abuse is one of the best ways to do that."

"One thing is clear: we must prevent the first use," stated Debbie Moak, director of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family. "Substance abuse is a serious and growing problem and deserves to be treated as such. This pilot program is one of the many steps we're taking to let people know that they don't have to fight addiction alone."

The "Healthy Families – Healthy Youth" pilot program is a back-to-school night of education for seventh grade youth and their families funded through the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration Substance Abuse Prevention Block Grant. The program will be hosted after a regular school day and will provide families with age-appropriate substance abuse education and the opportunity to develop a family substance abuse prevention plan.

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For more information or assistance, contact Governor Ducey's press office: (602) 542-1342.

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