

# Lowell Police Department

## LPD/LYDC Drug Awareness Event

**\$2,500 Was awarded in mini-grant funds by the GLHA (2014-2015)**

### Purpose

The LPD, with a commitment to community engagement and policing, has developed numerous partnerships with community organizations over the years: in 2006, the Lowell Youth Development Collaborative (LYDC) was formed to build partnerships between various youth-wellness agencies and the LPD.

The LYDC had identified **drug awareness education** and **youth jobs** as the largest priorities for the 2014/2015 school year. To address this issue adequately, the LPD and LYDC, in a joint-effort, planned to hold a drug-awareness event in October: National Substance Abuse Prevention month. The event was focused on educating children, teens and parents

### Goals & Objectives

- To implement a **two-pronged approach to the event**: In one section, there was programming for older teens and parents, featuring a keynote speaker who discusses the impact of loss due to heroin overdose, a panel discussion with District Attorney Marian Ryan, and representatives from various local non-profit orgs.
- The second part of the event are educational games for youth, led by youth and adult supervisors.
- Established 4 measurable goals: **At least 200 people attend the event.**
- **At least 50 parents attend the event**
- **At least 75 teens attend the event**
- **At least 75 children under the age of 13 attend the event.**

### Outcomes

- Parent attendance had actually exceeded their goal of 50 attendees.
- Many teens, mostly from the Lowell High School, had attended, and their goal in this area was reached as well.
- There were a limited amount of children in attendance, so this goal was not completely met.
- Parents had expressed great satisfaction with this initiative, and a desire to continue this educational week for subsequent years.