

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES SAFE AND DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES GRANTS**

**CHARLESTON** --

Governor Joe Manchin announced today that he has awarded \$605,131 to twenty-one projects in the state from the Safe and Drug-Free Communities fund.



*Congratulations  
Joe Manchin III*

The purpose of the Safe and Drug-Free Communities Program is to develop and implement community-based drug and violence prevention and resiliency-building programs for youth. Grants may be made to parent groups, school systems, community action and job training agencies, community-based organizations, and other public entities and private non-profit corporations.

Priorities are given to programs and activities for children and youth who do not normally receive these services from state and local educational agencies or populations that need special services or additional resources, such as preschoolers, youth in juvenile detention facilities, runaway or homeless children and youth, pregnant and parenting teenagers, and school dropouts. Also receiving priority are projects that provide special outreach activities aimed at maximizing the participation of community-

based organizations that have demonstrated effectiveness in providing services in low-income communities.

The Division of Criminal Justice Services, of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety, administers the program from funds received from the U.S. Department of Education under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.

Funds were awarded to the following:

**CABELL**

**Huntington WV Housing Authority**

**\$22,400**

Funds will support an after-school substance abuse prevention program for youth living in and around Huntington's public housing community. Funds will be used to implement the All-Stars Program at Marcum Terrace and Northcott Court Family Communities.

**Pictured with Governor Joe Manchin III, are Tim White, Program Coordinator, Jaytese Westmoreland and Ja'Leeza Canada, two youth enrolled in Operation Right Choice.**