

# HC DrugFree

HC DrugFree: Keeping Howard County *in the KNOW!*  
...knowledge is power, so just say KNOW



## Dates to Remember

February 25 - [Free Life Skills Class](#)

March 2 - [Teen Advisory Council Meeting](#)

March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 8, 22, 29 - [Free Life Skills Classes](#)

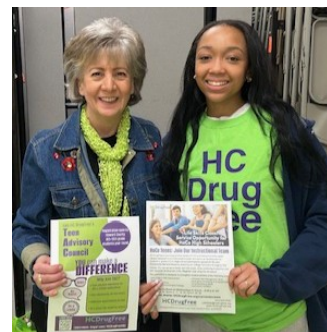
April 7 - [HoCo Student Film Festival/HC DrugFree Category Submission Deadline](#)

May 1 - [HoCo Film Festival at Miller Library](#)

## HCASC Opportunity Fair

HC DrugFree's adult and student team members interacted with middle and high school students at the Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC) Opportunity Fair.

The event was held at Long Reach High School on February 18 and featured a wide range of organizations, allowing students to explore local, county, and statewide opportunities.



Pictured: HC DrugFree Executive Director, Joan Webb Scornaienchi and Jordan, a member of HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council.

Save the Date: Drive-Thru Medication Collection

The next **drive-thru Medication Collection** will be held in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot on **Saturday, April 25** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Once again, **100 FREE medication storage boxes** will be given away. Be sure to safely store or properly dispose of your medications to keep your loved ones safe.



Volunteer with family and friends (or come make new friends).

Bring your unwanted and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications, and don't forget your pet medications!

More information will be shared closer to the event, or [click here](#) for updates.

## FREE! Parenting Classes



HC DrugFree will again present this popular **ONLINE** series of parenting classes for busy **Howard County parents, guardians, and grandparents**. The curriculum is written for adults with children between 9-14, but we believe it is appropriate for families with children in K-12. Adult or child must be a Howard County resident.

Guiding Good Choices® is an evidence-based, interactive prevention program that helps you build a stronger bond with your child, while also providing skills proven to reduce the risk of children engaging in substance use or other risky behaviors.

Learn how to:

- Strengthen Family Bonds
- Manage Conflict and Express Feelings Constructively
- Develop Healthy Beliefs and Clear Standards
- Avoid Trouble and Respond to Peer Pressure
- Prevent Drug Use in Your Family
- And More!

**Time: Noon to 1:30 p.m.**

**Dates: April 14, 15, 21, 22 with an optional class on April 28**

Classes will meet **on Zoom**. Adults are encouraged to attend all 5 sessions, but we understand if that's not possible.

[Learn more.](#) Please include any questions or comments on the registration form.

[Register here.](#)

## Wanted: Grandparents!!

You adore your grandkids, but let's be real—being a grandparent doesn't come with a manual!

Join our free parenting classes to learn new skills and increase family closeness and communication!

In the Know

HCDrugFree

**Are you a grandparent living in Howard County or do your grandkids live here?** If so, please join us **on Zoom** for our FREE classes for parents and grandparents.

**If your child's grandparents live out of state, invite them to join us online.** To attend, adult or grandchild must live in Howard County.

Free! Noon to 1:30 p.m. on April 14, 15, 21, 22 with an optional class on April 28

Grandparents are encouraged to attend all 5 online sessions, but we understand if that's not possible. [Learn more.](#) Please include any questions or comments on the registration form. [Register here.](#)

## High School Students: Opportunity Available!

We have an exciting opportunity for Howard County high school students! Join our **"Spring 2026 Instructional Team"** to assist the college students teaching our Life Skills classes.

**Earn Community Service Hours** for your time as well as mentor younger students and **add this leadership experience to your resumes and college applications.**

Dates: February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 8, 22, 29.  
Time: 5:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. on Zoom.

Our instructional team will be encouraged to join at 4:45 p.m. (30 minutes before class starts) to get briefed on that day's class topics and provide feedback on a special project. Team members **MUST** remain on camera! Positive role models need to be seen and fully engaged!

Howard County high school students who are not interested in serving on our team are welcome to attend the classes to gain the knowledge. See update below.

[Register here.](#) [Learn more.](#) [Print high school flyer.](#)

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## Free Classes for Middle & High School Students: Taught by College Students



**Parents, if your kids won't listen to you, they may listen to our team!**

Spring Life Skills classes will be **taught by Howard County-raised college students** attending the University of Maryland, College Park with **high school students assisting our team.**

HC DrugFree will provide another series of FUN and interactive skills-based classes designed to promote positive health and personal development.

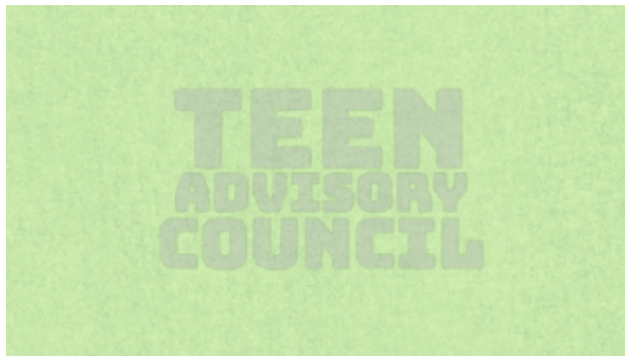
This program will use developmentally appropriate, collaborative learning strategies so students will learn skills that have been shown to help resist high-risk behaviors including substance use (vaping, alcohol and other drugs) and much more. [Learn more and register.](#)

**Dates:** February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 8, 22, 29  
**Time:** 5:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. **on Zoom**

[Download and print flyer.](#)

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## Teen Advisory Council Meeting



Free! HC DrugFree invites **all Howard County students in grades 8-12** to join our Teen Advisory Council (TAC).

To RSVP/register to receive the **Monday, March 2 Zoom meeting link**, [click here](#). Meetings will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Each meeting has a unique link, so members must RSVP/register before each meeting.

There will be no April meeting because we have other teen events scheduled, so save the date for May 4 meeting.

**Students:** If you have not submitted a 2025-26 registration, please complete [this form](#). Members of TAC attend our monthly meetings and serve as student ambassadors in their schools and in the community.

### Why join TAC?

- Earn Community Service Hours
- Gain experience for job & college applications
- Volunteer opportunities year round
- Be a leader and role model in Howard County

[Learn more.](#)

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## Create a PSA for HC DrugFree

### The HoCo Student Film Festival Is Now Open!

HC DrugFree is proud to sponsor a category in the 2025-26 Howard County Student Film Festival. Students are invited to create a Public Service Announcement (PSA) for this year's theme:

### **"In The Know: Fake Pills, Real Danger"**

Inspired by the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA's) "One Pill Can Kill" campaign, this category focuses on the risks of counterfeit pills, especially those laced with fentanyl.

#### Key Details

- Submission Deadline: April 7, 2026
- Festival Date: May 1, 2026, 7–8:30 PM at Miller Library

- Length: 30 seconds–2 minutes (plus a 10–30 second closing screen)
- Must Include: HC DrugFree logo, website ([hcdrugfree.org](http://hcdrugfree.org)), [Admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:Admin@hcdrugfree.org)

For requirements and past winners, visit our [website](#) and the [Film Fest website](#).

## Sharps Disposal

**To dispose of sharps:** *The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services recommends that you place used (or unused) needles in an empty plastic bottle (e.g., laundry detergent bottle) to protect the trash collection crew. When the bottle is full, add the cap and put the bottle in your curbside trash.*

## Stay In the Loop: Follow Us Online!

Follow HC DrugFree on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn to stay informed about important events, helpful resources, and prevention news as it happens.

### One-Click Links!

Facebook: [HC DrugFree](#)  
Instagram: [@hc\\_drugfree](#)  
LinkedIn: [HC DrugFree](#)  
Twitter: [@HCdrugfree](#)

## Donate Today!



**HCDrugFree**  
*needs your support!*  
*Help us help Howard County*

[www.hcdrugfree.org/donate/](http://www.hcdrugfree.org/donate/)

QR code: 

Photo: A group of people in green shirts holding signs in front of a brick building.

Your support allows us to provide our FREE resources and programs to the community. Please donate today by visiting [hcdrugfree.org/donate](http://hcdrugfree.org/donate) or mailing a check to: HC DrugFree, 5305 Village Center Drive, Suite 206, Columbia, MD 21044

[Donate here!](#)

## What Do You Think?

Please take our 2-second survey to let us know what you think of the content provided in this newsletter!

[Take Our Survey](#)

## Resources

### **Gambling Addiction:**

Contact 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537) for free, confidential support 24/7 or visit [helpmygamblingproblem.org](http://helpmygamblingproblem.org).

### **NAMI Howard County - Mental Health Services:**

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Howard County is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals affected by mental health conditions and their loved ones. [Download brochure.](#)

### **The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:**

Marylanders who are experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis should call or text 988. Learn more at [988.maryland.gov](http://988.maryland.gov). Maryland veterans and their loved ones can call 988 and press 1 to transfer to the Veterans Crisis Line. Press 2 for Spanish.



### **Free Narcan Training:**

The Howard County Health Department offers a free training so you can be prepared in case of an opioid overdose. Sign up for your free training and Narcan kit today: [Learn more.](#)



## [Additional Resources](#)



HC DrugFree | Wilde Lake Village Center 5305 Village Center Drive, Suite 206 | Columbia, MD 21044 US

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