

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**BOB RILEY**  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL  
HEALTH AND RETARDATION

**JOHN HOUSTON**  
COMMISSIONER

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**Contact:**  
Frank Miles  
Larry Childers  
(334) 242-5525

## **Riley Awards \$250,000 to Help Madison County Youths Avoid Substance Abuse**

**MONTGOMERY**—Gov. Bob Riley has awarded a \$250,000 grant to the Mental Health Center of Madison County to support a unified community effort to protect youth from substance abuse. The mission of the project is to prevent juvenile use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs throughout the county.

“This grant is powerful ammunition in Alabama’s fight to keep our children away from the dangers of drugs and alcohol,” Riley said. “It encourages everyone to work together to reverse the negative impact of substance abuse.”

The funds were awarded through a competitive process established by the Alabama Unified Prevention System. Alabama UPS is a statewide prevention program that builds healthy families and communities by coordinating local resources to make substance abuse prevention efforts more efficient and effective. Community coalitions use grant funds to evaluate the impact of substance abuse in their area and develop strategies for eliminating the abuse.

Several Madison county organizations, including the Mental Health Center of Madison County, the Partnership for a Drug-Free Community, the Alabama Hispanic Association and Big Brothers/Big Sisters, are members of the coalition.

Riley awarded the grant from an award the state received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.