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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Foundation Doubles Funding Available for Drug Prevention, Education

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA) has made up to \$350,000 available for drug awareness, education and prevention programs and support during the next New Bedford Against Drugs funding cycle, more than doubling the amount distributed in past years.

Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for NewBAD grants totaling \$200,000 will be available beginning June 13th to Greater New Bedford organizations wishing to apply for programs intended to reduce the number of first time drug users as well as the social and economic impact illicit drugs have on the area. Organizations seeking a copy of the application can download it from the Community Foundation's website (www.cfsema.org). Applications are due to the Foundation on July 19.

The additional monies will fund two new support programs: \$50,000 will be available to provide *Capacity Building* technical support to applicants for NewBAD funding, and \$25,000 has been appropriated for *Community Action Awards* to support events, publications and education campaigns that address NewBAD's goals. Another \$50,000 will be used to continue *LifeSkills* School-based Prevention Education, and \$25,000 is set aside for *Community Education Projects, fundraising and grantwriting*.

"By doubling the available funds, we are responding to the ongoing problem of drug-related violence in our community," said Community Foundation President Craig J. Dutra. "We also are responding to the community's renewed commitment to preventing drug abuse and related violence."

NewBAD was established in 1997 by an anonymous donation of \$1 million to the CFSEMA. NewBAD is an effort to provide financial support to analyze the drug problems; coordinate organizations, community leaders and individuals to develop a plan to address the drug problems; and to support and initiate anti-drug programs in Greater New Bedford (including Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester and Wareham).

Individual organizations can apply for up to \$35,000 for existing drug abuse awareness, prevention and education programs, to expand these programs or to develop new programs. Collaborative proposals from two or more organizations – which are valued and encouraged -- can apply for up to \$80,000.

Programs eligible for NewBAD grants include youth empowerment and leadership programs; prevention programs targeting "at risk" youth; community and/or faith-based programs that focus on safe neighborhoods and strengthening families; and anti-drug education and marketing campaigns in schools and community settings.

Grants will be awarded in September for a 12-month cycle, September, 2005 to September, 2006.

Up to \$10,000 in financial or in-kind *Capacity Building* professional services and training will be available per NewBAD funded project for program evaluation, board development, fiscal management, and strategic planning. The *Community Action Awards* of up to \$2,500 each can be made following management's recommendation to the CFSEMA board.

NewBAD is an ongoing effort to focus specifically on educating our youth to the dangers of drugs. The Project has successfully studied model successful prevention programs focusing on youth and initiated a comprehensive program during 2002.

About the Community Foundation

Since 1995, area residents have been turning to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible. With assets of \$6.2 million, the Foundation is a public charity serving thousands of people who share a common concern – improving the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Individuals, families, businesses and organizations create permanent charitable funds that help our region meet the challenges of changing times. The Foundation invests and administers these funds (there are currently 51), and uses the distributions to award grants each year to many of the humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region. The Community Foundation administers nine scholarship funds.