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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Foundation Offers Funding for Drug Abuse Prevention, Education

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA) is making up to \$150,000 available for drug abuse awareness, education and prevention programs and support during the next funding cycle of Youth Entitled to Success (YES, formerly NewBAD). To date, about \$900,000 has been distributed in grants from the YES Fund.

Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for YES Fund grants totaling \$150,000 are available to organizations wishing to address the drug problems and to initiate anti-drug programs focusing specifically on youth in the Greater New Bedford area (including Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester and Wareham.) Goals include reducing the number of first-time drug users and reducing the social and economic impact illicit drugs have on the region.

Individual organizations can request up to \$30,000 for the 12-month cycle beginning January 2007, and collaborative proposals from two or more organizations applying jointly – which are valued and encouraged - can request up to \$60,000.

CFSEMA is accepting the Associated Grant Makers (AGM) Common Proposal Form ONLY as application for YES grants, which can be downloaded at <http://www.agmconnect.org/cpf/> or by emailing Gabrielle Simmons at gsimmons@cfsema.org. Applications are due to the Community Foundation ***no later than 4 p.m. on November 21, 2006.***

Interested organizations can bring their questions to an ***Applicants Conference scheduled for Monday, October 30, from 10-11:30 a.m.*** in the Community Foundation Board Room, 227 Union Street, Suite 605, New Bedford.

Project YES was established in 1997 by an anonymous donation of \$1 million to the CFSEMA. Programs eligible for YES 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. Treatment programs will only be considered if they are a component of a comprehensive program.

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 more than \$15 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 66), and uses the distributions to award grants each year to many of the humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region.

More information about the Foundation can be found at www.cfsema.org.

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