

**As of March 2019, the Okaloosa DEC-C Alliance has taken the following actions to improve the lives of drug endangered children:**

- ◇ DEC trainers provided 9 DEC awareness trainings to over 200 community members.
- ◇ Alliance partners provided informational stickers to first responders to facilitate referrals of families to substance misuse services.
- ◇ Hospitals and EMS worked on policies and implementation of Cord Blood Testing to expedite the appropriate treatment for drug-exposed newborns.
- ◇ Response coordination was improved among Law Enforcement, DCF, School District, and ECCAC.

**Join your local DEC-C Alliance**

Email [HealthyOkaloosa@flhealth.gov](mailto:HealthyOkaloosa@flhealth.gov)



The **National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (National DEC)** exists to help make a difference in the lives of children who are living in dangerous drug environments. National DEC's mission is to break the cycle of abuse and neglect by empowering practitioners who work to transform the lives of these children.

For more information on National DEC:

National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children  
9101 Harlan St., Suite 245  
Westminster, CO 80031  
[www.nationaldec.org](http://www.nationaldec.org)

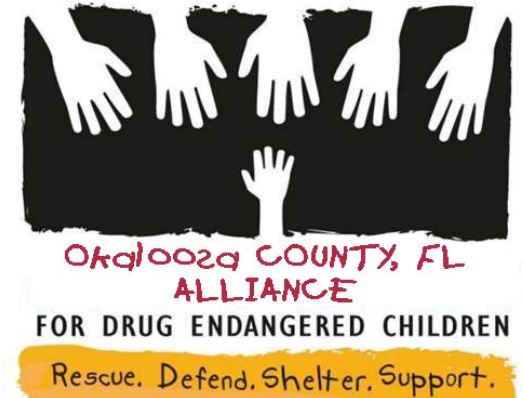
*National DEC is grateful to have received grant funding and support for our mission from the US Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services Office, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and Office for Victims of Crime.*

**Contact Okaloosa DEC-C**

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[www.HealthyOkaloosa.com](http://www.HealthyOkaloosa.com)



## Okaloosa DEC-C

***Our Mission:***

*Embrace all opportunities on behalf of children in drug endangered environments to lessen trauma and ensure 100% healthy, happy and safe children living in safe communities.*



Our story...

The Okaloosa DEC-C Alliance has a long history, with the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center (ECCAC) organizing community partners around the DEC mission.

A group of diverse community partners meet monthly for action planning and to report progress in meeting DEC-C goals to improve the lives of drug endangered children.

In June 2018 National DEC trainers provided a three-day Train-the-Trainer course in Okaloosa County for staff from the Sheriff's Office, CDAC Behavioral Health, DJJ, Big Bend Managing Entity, ECCAC, DOH-Okaloosa, Bridgeway Community Mental Health, Okaloosa Walton Homeless and Housing Alliance, Boys and Girls Clubs, DCF, and Okaloosa EMS. The group strives to train in pairs with one trainer from Law Enforcement and one trainer from a community agency.

**Providing DEC awareness training in our community increases the identification of drug endangered children at risk, and is a priority goal for the Okaloosa DEC-C Alliance.**

## Who are Drug Endangered Children?

**The Department of Children and Families (DCF) received 1756 substance abuse reports impacting children in Okaloosa County in 2018.**

National DEC defines drug endangered children as: "children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution. They may also be children whose caretaker's substance misuse interferes with the caretaker's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment."

*For more community health data go to:  
[www.HealthyOkaloosa.com](http://www.HealthyOkaloosa.com)*

## What can we do in Okaloosa?

The primary challenge with drug endangered children is **identifying children at risk** and coordinating the various systems and disciplines charged with intervening, and providing services to these children and families.

We follow The DEC Approach: a multidisciplinary strategy to change the trajectory of a drug endangered child's life through recognition of a common vision, ongoing collaboration between disciplines, and ongoing change in practices and policies, all of which increases the likelihood of better outcomes for drug endangered children. This approach guides our community-based partnership to effectively collaborate across settings to make a difference in children's lives.

## How can I help?

- ◇ To help increase the identification of children at risk, **request DEC awareness training** for your staff or organization:
  - ◇ Email [HealthyOkaloosa@flhealth.gov](mailto:HealthyOkaloosa@flhealth.gov)
- ◇ Join the Okaloosa DEC-C Alliance
  - ◇ Email [HealthyOkaloosa@flhealth.gov](mailto:HealthyOkaloosa@flhealth.gov)
- ◇ **Report suspected child abuse or neglect:**
  - ◇ Call: 1-800-962-2873
  - ◇ Online/Fax: [www.dcf.state.fl.us/service-programs/abuse-hotline/](http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/service-programs/abuse-hotline/)

## Area Resources: Drug and Alcohol Treatment

- ◇ Bridgeway 850-833-7500 (M-F, 8am - 5pm)  
850-376-5386 (after 5pm)
- ◇ CDAC 850-434-2724 (women with children under 6/pregnant; M-F, 8am - 5pm)
- ◇ Chautauqua Health Services (24/7)  
850-892-8045
- ◇ Lakeview Center 580-469-3500 (M-F 6am-10pm)  
Acute/Crisis Stabilization Unit (24/7) 850-380-0967
- ◇ Active Duty Military Only: Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention (ADAPT) 850-883-9352
- ◇ Dial 211 or go online for more resources  
[www.united-way.org/united-way-211/](http://www.united-way.org/united-way-211/)

