



Frenchtown Community Coalition

Working to create a healthy, engaged, and unified community for the youth of Frenchtown

FCC in Washington, D.C.

In February, the Frenchtown Community Coalition had the incredible opportunity to attend the 2026 National Leadership Forum hosted by CADCA in Washington, D.C. We were proud to bring 12 students (9 high school and 3 middle school), who are all members of the *Student Mental Health & Substance Use Task Force*, along with four adults, to represent Frenchtown.

Forum is the premier training event for prevention professionals and youth leaders across the country, bringing together more than 4,000 attendees committed to building safer, healthier communities. This year's theme, *Resilient Communities, Lasting Change*, focused on strengthening coalitions and empowering young leaders to create meaningful, sustainable impact. Our students attended daily workshops and plenary sessions, learning about emerging trends, evidence-based prevention strategies, youth engagement, advocacy, and leadership.

One of the most impactful experiences of the week was Capitol Hill Day. This event gives coalitions and youth the opportunity to meet directly with their state delegation to educate them about prevention efforts happening back home. Our students met with a member of Senator Daines' staff, a staff member from Senator Sheehy's office, and Congressman Ryan Zinke. They shared about the work happening in Frenchtown, the importance of prevention funding, and how youth voice makes a difference. We were incredibly proud of how confidently and professionally they represented our community. To see pictures of this experience, visit [Facebook.com/FrenchtownCommunityCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/FrenchtownCommunityCoalition)

Students were also able to experience the history and significance of our nation's capital. Between sessions, we visited the Lincoln Memorial, Korean War Memorial, the White House, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the International Spy Museum.

We are so grateful to the students who committed their time and energy to this experience. They represented Frenchtown well. We

also extend a heartfelt thank you to their parents and families for their support. Opportunities like this are possible because of strong community backing and families who believe in the importance of prevention and youth leadership.

We returned home more committed than ever to strengthening prevention efforts in our schools and community, and we look forward to sharing upcoming initiatives with you soon.



Find us on Facebook to get up-to-date info on Fall Fest, including costume contest categories!
[@FrenchtownCommunityCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/FrenchtownCommunityCoalition)



If you have questions or would like to join the Frenchtown Community Coalition Please contact FTCC@ftsd.org or call 406-626-2772

