

Introduction to the Minnesota Prevention Alliance (MPA) and the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant Program

MN Prevention Program Sharing

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 @ 3:15 PM



Introductions



**Laura Daak, Minnesota Prevention Alliance (MPA) Program Coordinator,
MPA Leadership Team & MPA Foundation Director**

Laura has over 20 years of experience in substance abuse prevention, provided leadership for three Drug Free Communities Grants, Tobacco Free Communities and a CARA Grant. She has been involved with MPA since the very beginning. Laura.Daak@commonspirit.org



**Angela Graham, MPA Leadership Team, HIP Program Coordinator
& MPA Foundation Member**

Angela has over 10 years of experience in substance misuse prevention, is a trained Certified Prevention Specialist and an ACE's Interface Trainer. She provides leadership for a Drug Free Communities Grants in Hubbard County. She has been involved with MPA since 2014. Angela.Graham@commonspirit.org

Objectives for Today

- MPA history, strategic action plan and goals
- Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant Program
- How to prepare and apply for a DFC Grant
- How to become a member of MPA
- How to start a coalition and build the capacity
- Other grant funding opportunities

History of Minnesota Prevention Alliance

March 2010

- Regional SW/SC Regional Health Educators were meeting quarterly. Most were DFC, TFC, SHIP or SIRG Funded. Then the Minnesota DFCs decided to start meeting separately.

October 2011

- First meeting was opened up to all MN DFC Grantees. We formed an Executive board and leaders conducted phone interview of all DFCs.

January 2014

- Formed the Minnesota Prevention Alliance with a Mission statement, Vision Statement & By-Laws.

October 2014

- MPA formed the Leadership Team

Cont'd History of MPA

2016-2018

- Continued to meet quarterly, (January, April, July and October).
- Several Coalition Coordinators were hired during this time.

July 2019

- Applied for the Drug Free Communities Program

October 2019

- Awarded DFC Grant (Oct. 31, 2019 to Oct. 30, 2020)

February
2020

- Hired DFC MPA Program Coordinator

× “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead



MPA Leadership Team – (2024-2025)

Chair - Shelly Larsen

Vice Chair - Talia Brodhead

Treasurer - Angela Graham

Recording Secretary - Doris Knutson

At-Large - Jeremy Evans

At-Large - Sandy Peterson

At-Large - Desta Owens

Fiscal Host Representative - Julie Vreeland

DFC Program Coordinator - Laura Daak



MPA Mission Statement:

*“To promote and enhance
substance misuse prevention
across Minnesota.”*

MPA Vision Statement:

“Working together to prevent youth substance misuse.”

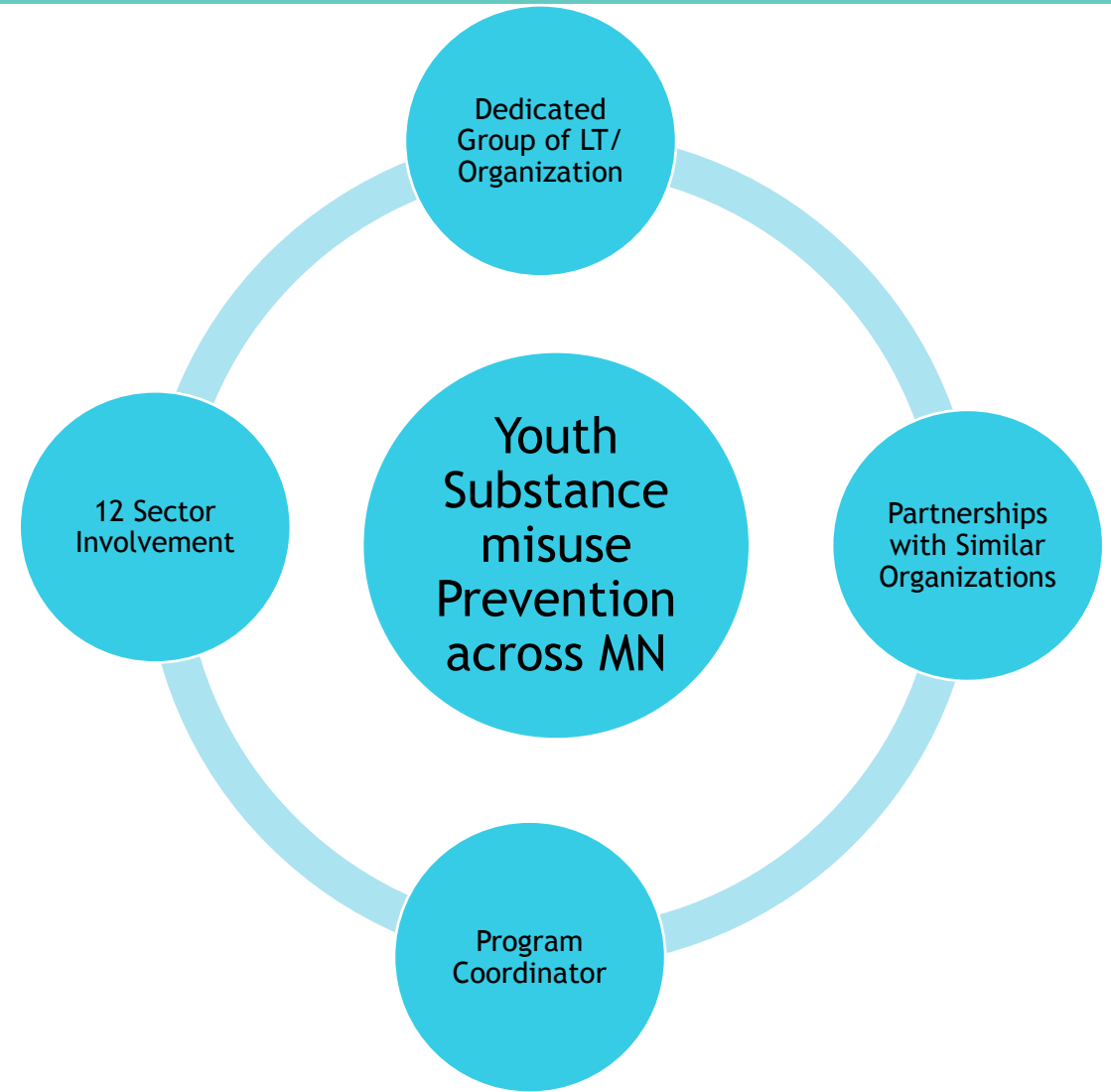




The Minnesota Prevention Alliance is a statewide coalition made up of professionals and volunteers from around the state who promote and enhance substance, misuse prevention efforts. Our goal is to reduce adolescent substance misuse by building advocacy, policy influence, and youth engagement in Minnesota communities. We want to see Minnesota be a healthy, safe place for teens and families to thrive.

Key Partners of MPA

- Youth
- Parents
- Businesses
- Media
- School
- Youth-serving organizations
- Law enforcement
- Religious/fraternal organizations
- Civic and volunteer organizations
- Healthcare professionals
- State, Local, and Tribal governments
- Other organizations involved in reducing illicit substance use



Fiscal Host:



Catholic Health Initiative (CHI) St. Gabriel's Health- Little Falls, MN

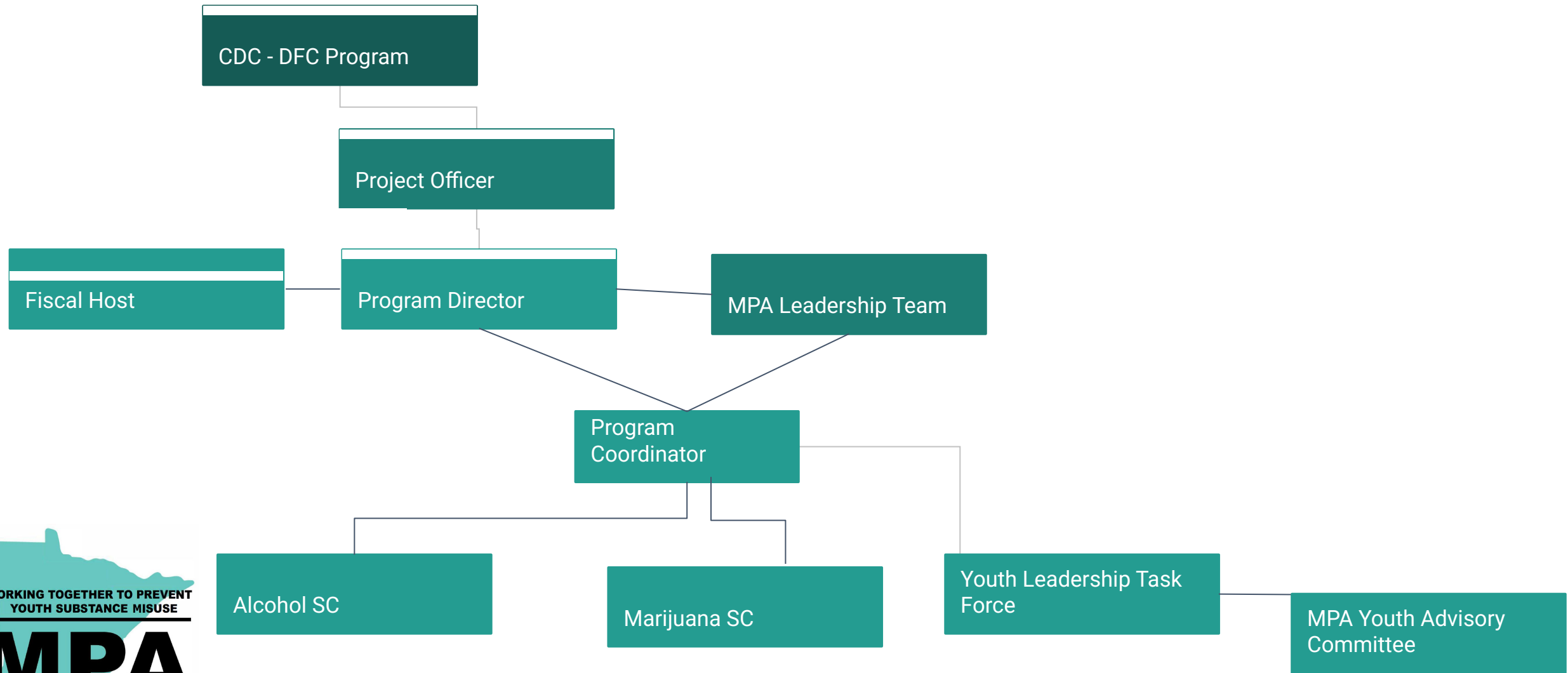
History of Partnership with CHI - Foundation Board

Partnerships with health care can provide:

- Community Health Assessment
- Community Health Improvement Plan



MPA Organization Chart:



We address:

- Educate on the dangers of drug use/abuse/misuse
- Underage Alcohol Drinking
- Adult providers
- UA Illegal Marijuana/Cannabis use
- Dangers of Nicotine/Vaping
- Advocate for Tobacco/Cannabis Free Spaces



What we do:

- **Build advocacy, policy influence, and youth engagement**
- **Network and share resources and best practices**
- **Provide information and action steps on key substance abuse issues in Minnesota**
- **Support prevention workforce development**



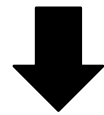
DFC Program Goals:

1. To reduce substance misuse in the State of Minnesota
2. Build and strengthen the capacity of our coalition



**Reduce Alcohol &
Marijuana use
among YOUTH in
Grades 6-12
across Minnesota**

Minnesota Prevention Alliance Coalition
coordinates statewide collaboration and
strategies for reducing youth use of alcohol,
tobacco and marijuana.



Reducing access to youth



Increasing youth perception of harm of youth use



Increasing education of effective strategies
for preventing youth use

Objective #1:

Reduce from 9% in 2022 to 8% in 2025 the number of 8th, 9th, and 11th graders reporting past 30-day alcohol use, as measured by the Minnesota Student Survey and aggregate four-core survey data.



*As measured by the MSS and aggregate four-core survey data.
Was 13% in 2019.

Objective #2:

Reduce from 6% in 2022 to 5% in 2025
the number of 8th, 9th, and 11th
graders reporting past 30-day
marijuana use*



*As measured by the MSS and aggregate four-core survey data
Was 9% in 2019

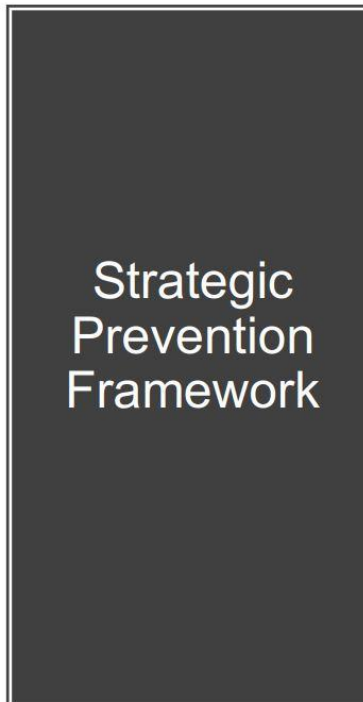
Objective #3:

Reduce from 8% in 2022 to 7% in 2025 the number of 8th, 9th, and 11th graders reporting past 30-day vaping of tobacco use*



*As measured by the MSS and aggregate four-core survey data
Was 13% in 2016

- We focus on the whole State of Minnesota
- Youth age 12-18, over time, adults
- Evidence Based Practices and Population Based Policies
- Follow the Strategic Prevention Framework
- Seven Strategies for Change
- Positive Community Norms



How do we impact local communities/coalitions? - Alcohol Strategies

- ❑ Statewide Expanded Social Host Ordinance (E-SHO)
- ❑ Expand & Support Place of Last Drink (POLD)
- ❑ Support Responsible Beverage Server Training (RBST)
- ❑ Restrict alcohol signage near schools
- ❑ Required Alcohol Compliance Checks Statewide
- ❑ Develop sample best policies for schools

How do we impact local communities/coalitions?

- Marijuana/Cannabis Strategies

Work to educate our lawmakers and reduce the harms of the adult marijuana/cannabis use law passed Aug 1, 2023.

Limit age of purchase, THC potency, advertising, possession amounts, outlet density, on-site

consumption; protect local control; and mandate compliance checks in order to influence policy and reduce access.



Developed MN Marijuana Prevention Toolkit



How do we impact local communities/coalitions?

- Tobacco/Nicotine Strategies

- Work to educate our lawmakers and restrict passage of tobacco/nicotine products not included in our MN T21 Law
- Educate youth on the dangers of tobacco/nicotine products
- Ban flavored tobacco
- Encourage compliance checks



MPA Successes

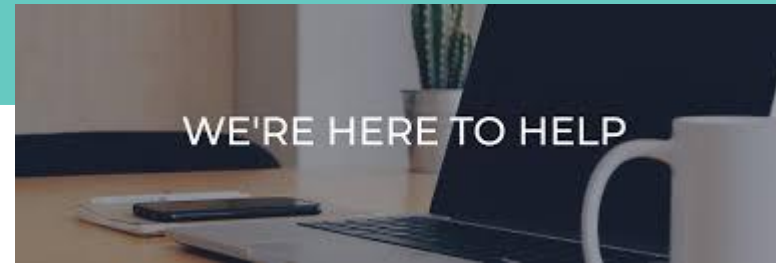
- National Coalition Academy - Grandfathered
- Hosted three Statewide Marijuana Education Webinars
- Sponsored Tall Cop Says Stop with Hubbard in Prevention Coalition
- Successfully delayed Adult Use Marijuana until Aug 1 2023
- Developed Youth Advisory Council in 2023
- Coalition Business Administration Graduate/Certification - Cohort 1
- ICCPUD Alcohol Policy Academy Graduate - Cohort 1
- Statewide Naloxone Event in Aug 2024
- Developed Marijuana Prevention Toolkit with SAMMn
- Received the Year 6-10 DFC Competing Continuation Funding
- Continuing to reduce ATOD rates of youth 12-18 in Minnesota
- Started the MPA Foundation Spring 2025

MPA Sub Committee

1. Alcohol Sub Committee
2. Marijuana/Cannabis Sub Committee
3. Youth Leadership Task Force
 - Youth Advisory Council - Youth from around the state advise MPA from a youth perspective. Youth led- adult guided

All meet monthly via Zoom for one hour

How can MPA help:



- Taking the time to collaborate across multiple communities
- Used Zoom Meetings/Webinars Technology sooner
- Take advantage of the FREE RESOURCES
- Network and Learn from each other
- Connect with your Project Officer
- Don't work in a SILO - REACH OUT
- Statewide Policy work is HARD
- Don't recreate the Wheel
- Be PATIENT and have GRACE

How can you can help MPA:



- Like us on Facebook & Invite your friends to like our page
- Share our Social Media Posts
- Sign up for the MPA email list serve
- Attend Quarterly Meetings (January, April, July & October)
- Volunteer and fill out a Match Form (if applicable)
- Sign up for a Sub-Committee (Alcohol, Marijuana or Youth Leadership Task Force)



Find us on
Facebook

**"WE CANNOT
ALWAYS BUILD
THE FUTURE FOR
OUR YOUTH, BUT
WE CAN BUILD
OUR YOUTH FOR
THE FUTURE."**

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Continuation Application:

Annually – New DFC NOFOs are released annually around late January / early February and usually due in March on www.grants.gov

Funding announcements are usually done in early September.

Substances of Focus

- Alcohol
- Marijuana/Cannabis
- Prescription drugs
- Tobacco/nicotine
- Heroin and fentanyl
- Methamphetamine

Reporting requirements

- **REQUIRED**, per the DFC Terms and Conditions of the grant

Report	When?	Who Submits?	Submitted Where?
Sector Representatives	Ongoing, checked each year with Progress Report	Program Director/Project Coordinator	DFC & CARA Me
Progress Report	Currently Twice Each Year (February/August) Anticipate Annual (August)	Program Director/Project Coordinator	DFC & CARA Me
Coalition Classification Tool (CCT) Survey	Once per year (August)	Program Director/Project Coordinator	DFC & CARA Me
Data Management Plan (DMP)	12 months into award	Program Director	DFC & CARA Me
Core Measures	Every 2 years (with Progress Report Submission)	Program Director/Project Coordinator	DFC & CARA Me
Sustainability Plan	Year 3 and 7 (with Progress Report Submission)	Program Director/Project Coordinator	DFC & CARA Me

Other Grant Opportunities:



- Federal (DFC, CARA, STOP, SPF-PFS)
www.grants.gov
- State (Positive Community Norms, CTC, TFC, CBSUMH, OREC, OSAC, etc.)
- Regional (Foundations, Initiatives)
- Local (Animal Clubs, United Way, Businesses, County, City Council, Donations)

SAMHSA Grant Opportunities:

☐ Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS)

☐ Substance Abuse and HIV Prevention Navigator Programs for Racial/Ethnic Minorities (Prevention Navigator)

☐ Sober Truth on Preventing (STOP) Underage Drinking Act Grant Program

☐ Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths (PDO)

☐ First Responders Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR-CARA)

☐ Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF-Rx)

☐ Improving Access to Overdose Treatment (OD Tx)

☐ Block Grant

☐ Synar



**4th Thursdays of each Jan, April, July via
Zoom & October is Hybrid**



MPA Coffee Hour

2nd Tuesdays of rotating months

8:30 AM to 9:30 AM



Join us for an informal hour to talk about substance abuse topics via Zoom

Text: 320.733.2376 with questions

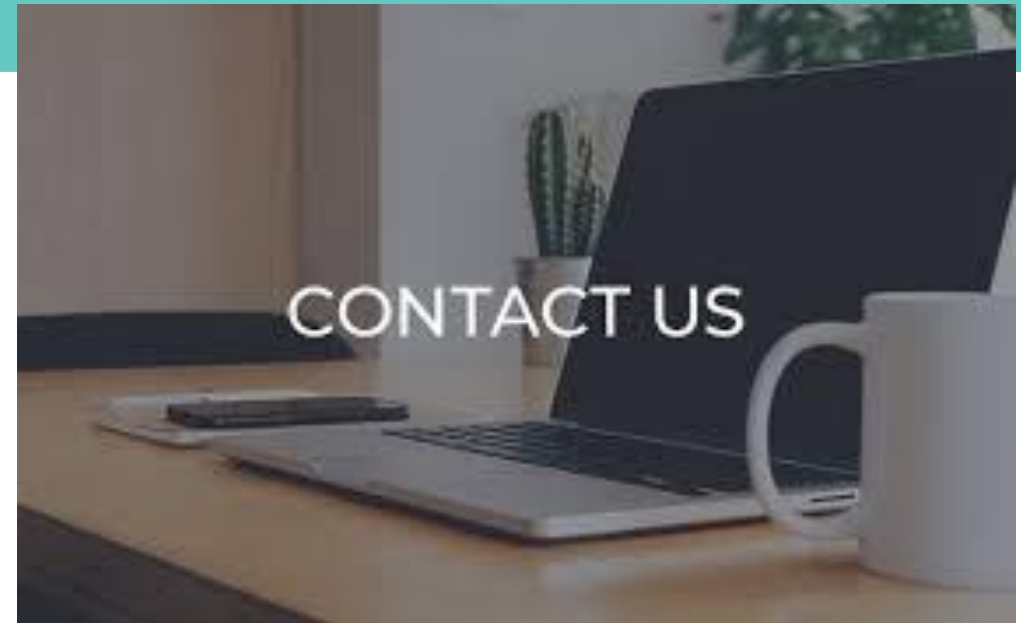


Contact Info:

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What questions do you have for us???

~~~ Thanks for joining us!