



About National DEC: The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (National DEC) is a national nonprofit whose mission is to break multi-generational cycles of abuse and neglect of children by empowering practitioners who work to change the trajectory of the lives of children and families living in drug environments. We provide training and technical assistance to state, tribal, and local DEC alliances and all those who assist and care for drug endangered children and work to prevent and address child abuse and neglect. This includes law enforcement, child welfare, prosecutors, judges, medical personnel, teachers, probation/parole/corrections, treatment providers, prevention specialists, and other practitioners.

National DEC advances the DEC mission through our **three tiered training program**: 1) Tier 1 **“Core DEC Awareness”** training assists communities and professionals in understanding the prevalence of drug activity and substance abuse and how it negatively affects children. The training enhances the ability of professionals to identify drug endangered children and the risks and trauma they face and highlights the opportunities through collaboration for changing the status quo to help drug endangered children, their families, and their communities. 2) Tier 2 **“DEC Approach”** training is designed to move practitioners from DEC awareness to taking action. This interactive training directly engages all disciplines in developing collaborative DEC partnerships and helps participants gain a deeper understanding of each discipline’s roles and responsibilities. The training effectively gets participants to identify and implement changes they can make in their practice to assist drug endangered children. 3) Tier 3 **“Local DEC Development Training and Facilitation”** is hands-on training and facilitation that provides the foundation for developing a local DEC alliance as a formal structure for on-going collaboration, on-going change, and sustained organizational transformation. This includes MOU’s, protocols, work plans, alliance goals and strategic plans, and access to promising practices from other jurisdictions that have established DEC alliances.

Advocates throughout the United States and Canada have worked hard to create effective collaborations and to institutionalize the DEC Approach for the benefit of drug endangered children. Being part of the DEC movement:

- Connects you to other professionals working on the same challenges
- Enhances collaborative efforts on behalf of children and families
- Allows you to be part of a larger solution to prevent and address child abuse and neglect

Definition: Drug Endangered Child - The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children defines drug endangered children as those “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. The essence of this definition is that “Children + Drugs = Risk.” The DEC movement challenges all of us to recognize these risks and to work together using the DEC Approach to protect children from neglect and abuse, which all too often occurs across generations. By working together and leveraging resources, we can provide drug endangered children opportunities to live in safe and nurturing environments free from abuse and neglect.