

Interact for Health Spurs Tobacco-Free Environments in Tri-State

Awards \$180,000 to Four Organizations to Expand Policies in Their Communities

Cincinnati – July 13, 2015 – [Interact for Health](http://InteractforHealth.org), a catalyst for health and wellness, announced today it has awarded four grants totaling \$180,000 to expand the number of tobacco-free environments in the Greater Cincinnati region. Tobacco-free environments, prohibit both smoke and smoke-free tobacco use.

“Every space and environment that eliminates tobacco use puts us one step closer to furthering Interact’s vision of creating a healthier community,” said Megan Folkerth, program associate at Interact for Health. “Every new tobacco-free zone is a win for all of us, it has positive effects for both those who use tobacco products and those who are exposed to secondhand smoke.”

The Adams County Medical Foundation, Inc., Partners for a Drug-Free Milford-Miami Township, Stayin’ Alive, Inc. located in Franklin County, Indiana and Talbert House each received funding to plan and implement tobacco-free areas in their community.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 19 percent of adult – or 43.8 million – Americans 18 and older were current smokers in 2011. The 2013 Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey found that 25 percent of adults in the Greater Cincinnati region are smokers, with higher rates in rural counties and among low-income adults, among the highest rates in the nation.

“Tobacco-related disease remains the leading preventable cause of death in the United States,” Folkerth said. “We also know that being a nonsmoker does not make a person immune to problems caused by smoking. Secondhand smoke causes many negative health issues, including heart disease, lung disease and SIDS.”

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GRANTS AWARDED

Interact for Health has awarded the following grants for tobacco-free initiatives:

- **Adams County Medical Foundation** – \$40,000 to both plan and implement tobacco-free policies throughout Adams County, initially focusing on schools and parks in the county.
- **Partners for a Drug Free Milford, Miami Township** – \$50,000 to develop and implement tobacco-free policies in the area. Efforts include compliance checks, adding signage in Milford schools, expanding tobacco-free policies at other schools in the community, and the deployment of a tobacco-free parks policy.
- **Stayin' Alive, Inc., Franklin County, Indiana** – \$45,000 to plan and execute a comprehensive plan to implement tobacco-free environments policies at outdoor parks in the county, as well as develop smoke-free policies for low income housing units and tobacco cessation efforts for pregnant women.
- **Talbert House** – \$45,000 to implement tobacco-free environments at all Talbert House sites, including those facilities where clients reside in a program. Cessation programs will be available for both staff and clients in conjunction with the policy.

ABOUT INTERACT FOR HEALTH

Interact for Health improves the health of people in the Cincinnati region by being a catalyst for health and wellness. We accomplish our mission by promoting healthy living through grants, education, and policy. Interact for Health is an independent nonprofit that serves 20 counties in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. More information can be found at www.interactforhealth.org

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