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Quitting products are available now to state smokers

In observance of Father's Day and to focus attention on encouraging men to quit tobacco, free nicotine replacement products are being offered for the first time ever to all qualified Oklahomans.

Residents who call the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline, (800) 784-8669, will be eligible to receive a kit while supplies last.

Products will be available to both men and women.

Cleveland County Turning Point Coalition, a local health organization, is encouraging all tobacco users to take advantage of the offer.

The starter kits, offered in observance of Father's Day, contain a two-week supply of nicotine patches, gum or lozenges—depending on each caller's needs—to help callers kick-start their quit attempt.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for families in Cleveland County to celebrate Father's Day in a healthy way," said Stacey Martin, chairperson of Cleveland County Turning Point and APRC Director at NAIC-Center for Oklahoma Alcohol & Drug Services, a United Way agency.

"When a parent quits using tobacco, it also reduces the chances of their children using tobacco."

Launched in September 2003, the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline is supported by earnings from the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust and state tobacco tax funds made available through the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

Professional "quit coaches" work with callers to develop a quit plan tailored to their individual needs. Up to four follow-up calls with a quit coach are also provided free of charge.

Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week, and staff members will return any messages left after hours.

Services are also available in Spanish by calling (800) 793-1552.