

## **Norman Regional program to share \$1.35M in grant funds**

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Cleveland County Turning Point, a program of Norman Regional Health Systems, is among 15 programs to share in \$1.35 million in grants from Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust.

The Communities of Excellence Nutrition and Fitness program awards were approved during the trust's quarterly meeting.

These new grants, awarded to community coalitions, will serve 21 counties across the state.

The board approved \$1.35 million for the first funding cycle of the five year program.

"These grants are an important step forward in the fulfilment of TSET's strategic plan," said Ken Rowe, TSET Board of Directors Chair. "We are very excited about launching the new Communities of Excellence in Nutrition and Fitness to complement the work already being funded in tobacco prevention and cessation across the state."

"Communities are ready to address health issues, such as poor nutrition and lack of physical activity, which have negative impacts on the individuals, families and businesses in our own towns," Rowe said. "Through these grants, we will begin to see healthier people, healthier communities and a healthier Oklahoma."

The Communities of Excellence in Nutrition and Fitness program funds community-based coalitions to work with schools, communities, workplaces and businesses to implement effective policies and programs that promote opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity.

The grants will begin with a 15 month start-up/planning period.

Funding in future implementation years will see an increase in funds awarded to coalitions based on population and strategic plans.