

JCCHAT receives \$160,000 Communities of Excellence grant

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Altus– Jackson County Community Health Action Team has received \$160,000 as a part of the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust’s (TSET) Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control grant program.

With this latest Communities of Excellence grant, the Jackson County Community Health Action Team has received \$1,370,042 from TSET since 2003 to help local communities, workplaces and schools implement policy changes that improve the health of the community. Jackson County Community Health Action Team leads tobacco prevention efforts in Jackson County. Funding for the 2014 grant year began July 1.

“We are working to create healthy, tobacco free environments for our children, and to encourage tobacco users to quit for their own health and for their loved ones,” said Jackson County Tobacco Education Committee Co-Chair Mike Bell. “It also makes good business sense by lowering health-related costs while increasing productivity. We are making progress and we remain dedicated to improving health in Jackson County,” he said.

The TSET Board of Directors, during its June meeting, approved more than \$6 million in Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control program grants to 33 coalitions and consortiums that serve 50 counties and one tribal nation. With the combined grants, the Communities of Excellence program will serve about 85 percent of the state’s population.

“These community grantees understand that tobacco use impacts all of us. It impacts those we love and it impacts our economy and our well-being as a state,” said TSET Executive Director Tracey Strader. “Their work is making tobacco-free living the norm by creating healthy environments that encourage smokers to quit, encourage youth not to start, and inspire all of us to get involved to reduce tobacco use in our state.”

Jackson County Community Health Action Team is a Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control grantee of the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust serving Jackson County and promoting smoke-free environments, tobacco cessation and tobacco prevention.

The Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) serves as a partner and bridge builder for organizations working towards shaping a healthier future for all Oklahomans. TSET provides leadership at the intersections of health by working with local coalitions and initiatives across the state, by cultivating innovative and life-changing research, and by working across public and private sectors to develop, support, implement and evaluate creative strategies to take advantage of emerging opportunities to improve the public’s health. TSET – Better Lives Through Better Health.

For more information about Jackson County Community Health Action Team, contact Tonya Pogue at 580-482-7308.

For more information about the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust, visit www.tset.ok.gov.