

Tobacco- Free LeFlore County Receives Grant

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Tobacco- free LeFlore County(TLC) has received \$129,927.00 as a part of the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust's (TSET)

Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control grant program, Tobacco- free LeFlore County works with the LeFlore County Coalition for Healthy Living, and the LeFlore County Youth Services, Inc.

Serving as the lead agency assists tobacco prevention efforts in LeFlore County.

With this latest Communities of Excellence grant, Tobacco- free LeFlore County has received over \$300,000.00 from TSET since 2010 to help local communities, workplaces and schools implement policy changes that improve the health of the community.

Funding will be for the 2013 grant year, which will begin Oct. 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 TLC Coordinator Marcey Ford. "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 LeFlore County.

The TSET Board of Directors, during its Sept. 17 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."