

Heavener Ledger

Heavener, Oklahoma October 14, 2010

Area Coalition Receives \$75,000 Grant

LeFlore County Coalition for Healthy Living has received \$75,000 as a part of the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust's (TSET) *Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control* program. LeFlore County Coalition for Healthy Living works with LeFlore County Youth Services, Inc. to assist tobacco prevention.

"Tobacco is harmful and destructive to our families, co-workers and children. The LeFlore County coalition for Health Living is excited to build upon the in-roads made in tobacco prevention in LeFlore County," said Bill Slater, vice-chairperson. "We are looking forward to making our schools, towns and neighborhoods safer, cleaner, tobacco free environments for our children and families."

At its September meeting, the TSET Board of Directors renewed more than \$4.8 million in *Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control* program grants to 24 coalitions serving 38 counties and one tribal nation. In addition, the TSET Board approved new grants to ten community coalitions serving 13 counties, totaling more than \$745,000 in the next grant year. With the combined grant *Community of Excellence* grantees will serve approximately 85 percent of the state's population.

"The local community efforts across Oklahoma are beginning to have profound impact on the devastating effect of commercial tobacco use," said Tracy Strader, executive director of TSET.

"The legacy of tobacco will not be defined by its huge economic toll on our state, but rather by the work being done by concerned individuals and coalitions that realize the importance of healthy lives and healthy environments in which we all work and play."

In the State of the County's Health Report for Oklahoma for 2009-2010, it is reported that LeFlore County related expenditures for tobacco use is \$32,511,600.

The report indicates 9,852 people were treated for tobacco related diseases for a total of 9,852.

It is the intent of this grant to reverse this costly use of tobacco through cessation of use of all tobacco products.

About The LeFlore County Coalition for Health Living

LeFlore County Coalition for Healthy Living is a *Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control* grantee of the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust serving LeFlore County and promoting smoke free, environments, tobacco cessation and tobacco prevention.

For more information about LeFlore County Coalition for Healthy Living contact Bill Slater at 918-635-5477.