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Tobacco-Free LeFlore County Receives Grant

Tobacco-free LeFlore County (TLC) has received \$125,000.00 from the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) as a grantee in the Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control program. Tobacco-free LeFlore County works with the LeFlore County Coalition for Healthy Living, with LeFlore County Youth Services, Inc. serving as lead agency, to assist tobacco prevention efforts in LeFlore County.

During the past year, Tobacco-free LeFlore County worked with communities, businesses and schools to improve the health of Oklahomans by assisting Howe, Shady Point and Spiro Public Schools as well as Kiamichi Technology Center adopt 24/7 Tobacco-free Policies.

“We are dedicated to making LeFlore County a healthier place to live,” said TLC Coordinator, B.J. Barnes. “This grant enables us to establish smoke-free environments and programs that prevent youth smoking and help people quit tobacco. It’s our goal to create a community in which children can grow up tobacco-free, and help is available to anyone who wants to quit smoking or using other tobacco products.”

At its September meeting, the TSET board of directors renewed more than \$6 million in Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control program grants to 34 coalitions serving 51 Oklahoma counties and one tribal nation. The programs impact the lives of more than 85 percent of Oklahomans.

“Thanks to the efforts of local coalitions like Tobacco-free LeFlore County smoking rates are at an all-time low and quit rates are at an all-time high in our state,” said Tracey Strader, executive director of TSET. “TSET recognizes the tireless efforts of these local coalitions and their work to create communities in which the healthy choice is the easy choice.”

Since its first Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control grant in 2010, Tobacco-free LeFlore County has received more than \$175,000 to sustain efforts to improve the health of the community.

About TSET

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 health. TSET—Better Lives Through Better Health. To learn more go to : www.tset.ok.gov.