

Cleveland County coalition receives \$340,000 to fight tobacco use

NORMAN—Tobacco Free Cleveland County-Cleveland County Turning Point received \$340,000 from the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement endowment Trust.

At its September meeting, the endowment trust's board of directors renewed more than \$4.8 million in Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control grants to 24 coalitions serving 38 counties, including Cleveland, and one tribal nation.

The Tobacco Free Cleveland County coalition works with Norman Regional Health System on tobacco prevention programs in the county. Since receiving the Communities of Excellence grant in 2004, the coalition has received more than \$1.1 million for efforts to improve community health.

"The progress being made here locally in Cleveland County is substantial," said coalition Chairman Jerry Deming. "We are working to create healthy, smoke-free environments for our children. We are encouraging tobacco users to quit for their own health as well as for their loved ones."

For more information about Tobacco Free Cleveland County, call Candida Manion at 307-6626.