

Carter County Turning Point awarded grant

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Carter County Turning Point is one of 16 coalitions in the state awarded grants to implement the Communities of Excellence program to reduce tobacco use in the state. The grant is administered locally by the Community Children's Shelter. Carter County Turning Point received a planning grant of \$69,910 last year.

The Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Thursday announced a total of nearly \$1.8 million in grants.

"These grantees have successfully completed a rigorous community-based strategic planning process that will guide their activities over the next four years. The grants will allow local coalitions to implement comprehensive programs that are specifically tailored to significantly reduce tobacco use within their local communities," said Susan BizŹ, Chair of the Board of Directors.

Funded entirely with investment earnings from the tobacco settlement endowment, grants this year range in size from approximately \$100,000 to nearly \$200,000. Each grantee must provide matching funds equal to 10 percent of their grant award. Combined, grant funds and matching funds will support the \$2 million program in 23 counties and three tribal nations this year.

State Treasurer Scott Meacham chairs the trust fund's board of investors that oversees all investments. "I am glad the people of Oklahoma approved the constitutional amendment to permanently invest the tobacco settlement funds," Meacham said. "The money earned on our investment of the settlement funds is being put to efficient use to help encourage tobacco users to quit and help prevent others from ever starting."

Attorney General Drew Edmondson is one of the eight attorneys general responsible for negotiating the historic 1998 tobacco settlement between the states and big tobacco.