



About Us...

The LeFlore County Coalition for Health Living is a unique partnership of community organizations, agencies, mental health providers, business professionals, family members, and individuals committed to improving the quality of life for children and families residing in LeFlore County. This county wide coalition is working to promote healthy living for our neighbors, friends and families.

The Coalition is actively striving to make LeFlore County a healthier place to live through efforts including establishing a local Boy's & Girl's Club, drug

prevention initiatives, school readiness programs, educating and empowering area youth, sponsoring a Teen Rally, supporting a Systems of Care program, implementing a comprehensive tobacco control program, addressing underage drinking and providing education to the community.

This past year they expanded efforts to include taking a more active role in alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention. LCC4HL applied and received a grant from TSET to implement a comprehensive tobacco control program county wide. They also have been exploring ways to effectively address the issues

of underage drinking and binge drinking.

They have recently started looking at plans to effect health in a more long term and strategic manner and adding the priority of nutrition and fitness. The coalition has begun to assess the community needs and will then work to create a comprehensive County Health Improvement Plan.

LeFlore County Coalition for Healthy Living is working to improve the health of the families and youth of LeFlore county. They want to make their community a healthy place to live, work and play.



Partnership Priorities

- Law Enforcement and Alternatives to Incarceration
- Tobacco Control
- Education, Prevention and Wellness
- Public Relations and Fund Raising
- Intervention and Treatment
- School Readiness
- ATOD Prevention & Education Efforts
- Access to Health Care



LeFlore County, OK

" We are working together to make a positive difference in the lives of our neighbors, our friends and our families ."

-Bill Slater

Coalition Co-Chair

Community Profile: Strengths and Challenges

LeFlore is a very rural county in Southeastern Oklahoma sitting on the Arkansas border. They have a population of just over 50,000. In the past 10 years this area has seen a slight increase in population including the Hispanic community. The county has and continues to have a very high number of Native American Residents.

LeFlore County is rich in natural resources and recreational activities. The county has seen business moving in and some economic development in re-

cent years.

This diverse county has numerous resources but continues to have many issues effecting it's citizens' health. The county has high rates of poverty, unemployment, is consistently leading the state in number of grandparents raising grandchildren and poor access to healthy foods and recreational areas.

LeFlore County continues to struggle with poor health status and rankings many times higher than national and state averages. The county ranked 43rd out of

the 77 counties in Health Outcomes with a premature death rate considerably higher than the state rate and more than double the national rate. In Health Factors they were 58th of the 77 counties. Factors contributing to this ranking include very high rates of adult smoking, adult obesity, and teen birth rates; many uninsured adults and poor access to health care; higher than average rates of children in poverty, inadequate social support and single parent households.

Featured Intervention / Project

The LeFlore County Coalition for Healthy Living applied for and received a TSET Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control Grant.

They established the TLC-Tobacco Free LeFlore County committee and have been very busy addressing tobacco issues even in the planning year of the grant.

Our mission is to end the influence of tobacco by encouraging youth to never start, promote

quitting and work toward a tobacco-free environment for all.

Our biggest milestone during this planning year has been the addition of 3 24/7 Tobacco-free Schools in LeFlore County.

This committee is moving full force into the first year of implementation and has and will continue to impact the lives of the people in LeFlore County through comprehensive efforts to combat tobacco use.



Partnership Contact Information

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Partners

Choctaw Nation
 Faith Community
 LeFlore County Child Advocacy Center
 Systems of Care
 Local Businesses
 Boy's & Girl's Club of LeFlore County
 CASA
 OJA
 Area Law Enforcement
 KIBOIS Community Action
 Smart Start Kiamichi Country
 LeFlore Co. Health Department
 Area Schools
 LeFlore County DHS
 Carl Albert State College
 Elected officials
 Regional Prevention Service
 Haskell County Coalition
 OK Health Care Authority
 Tobacco Free LeFlore County
 Kiamichi Technology Center
 Stigler Health & Wellness Center

Partnership Outcomes

- ◆ Community Education Initiatives
- ◆ Tobacco Education & Tobacco Policies Adopted
- ◆ Addition Partners Gained
- ◆ School Readiness Program expanded in county head starts and daycares
- ◆ Tobacco Control Committee established and funded for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program
- ◆ Coalition development including expansion of the partnership & priorities, strategic planning and capacity building



Area Eighth Graders Attend Teen Conference

More than 350 local students got a valuable lesson in life at the "I Am Somebody" teen conference hosted by the LeFlore County Coalition for Healthy Living and Choctaw Project SAFE. The one day event addressed multiple topics targeted to help teens live safe and drug free lives. The students learned about such subjects as date rape, suicide prevention, internet safety, and alcohol and substance abuse. Guest speakers also spoke about bullying, teen pregnancy prevention and sexual health, and self esteem.

The conference began with an eye opening story by special guest speaker Kirk Smalley. He spoke to the teens in attendance about the tragedy befallen by him and his wife, when their 11 year old son committed suicide after he was suspended from school. His son was suspended because he retaliated against a school bully that had continually tormented

