

Published October 22, 2007 12:57 am -

Coalition funded for tobacco prevention

Phoenix Staff Reports

The Muskogee Turning Point Coalition Community of Excellence Tobacco Program has been funded for an additional year to continue efforts to reduce the burden of tobacco on Muskogee and Sequoyah county residents.

The grant was awarded by the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Trust. Lead agency for the program is Muskogee County Health Department.

The program is entering the third year and is focused on ensuring cessation resources for tobacco users who are ready to quit; protection for residents from secondhand smoke; preventing youth from initiating tobacco use; and monitoring tobacco industry efforts.

Since the start of the program, approximately 1,500 Muskogee County residents and 500 Sequoyah County residents have called the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline for assistance in quitting smoking; 275 youth have joined a local Students Working Against Tobacco Program; and nine school districts in the service area offer 24/7 tobacco-free campus policies.

Information: 683-0321.