

CHOCTAW & PUSHMATAHA COUNTY PROJECT S.P.I.T. CONSORTIUM

Established in 2004

In 1996, the Pushmataha County Turning Point Coalition and the Choctaw County Coalition was formed as a result of a collaborative effort between community members residing in Pushmataha & Choctaw county and the local County Health Departments. The original purpose for the development of the Coalition(s) was to serve as a steering committee and provide community-based input for the County Health Department's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. Since that time, both coalition(s) have adopted many roles towards mobilizing the community in addressing adolescent health issues, as well as community health issues and economic development. Throughout the last eight years they have continued to aid one another across the county lines in sharing best practices in youth development, joint media campaign approaches, model successful prevention programs, and share common concerns.

A common concern identified by both groups, is the overwhelming impact that tobacco use has on their health and community. In June of this year, the two coalitions chose to form a consortium with one another to collectively and resourcefully address this issue through the application of the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust.

This consortium identify this collaborative effort as "Project **Stop Prevent and Intervene Tobacco use**" Initiative (throughout the remainder of this proposal referred to as Project SPIT).

Coalition members represent a variety of sectors in each community, such as, schools, parent groups, health agencies, youth-serving agencies, community service organizations, youth, media, businesses, faith community, law enforcement, volunteers, and civic groups.

Members involved are truly some of the "movers and shakers" of Pushmataha & Choctaw counties. Each year additional members of the community become involved and are offering monetary and in-kind support to Coalition projects. Volunteers are even donating their time to be trained in special curricula areas and assisting in co-facilitation of coalition presentations for youth. Representing communities throughout Pushmataha & Choctaw Counties, Project SPIT Consortium sees the growing need and validity for comprehensive community-based initiatives, specifically in tobacco control and education.

- **Activities**
 - Established a Consortium between the Choctaw County Coalition and the Pushmataha County Turning Point Coalition identifying tobacco issues as their #1 priority
 - Identified goals for Choctaw & Pushmataha County pertaining to tobacco control, intervention, and education
 - Applied for the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund Grant

- **Outcomes**
 - Awarded the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund Grant
 - Identified Hiring/Recommendation committee to select staff to implement tobacco control program in Choctaw and Pushmataha counties.

- **Future Plans**
 - Implement the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Grant awarded to the Project S.P.I.T. Consortium and begin the Planning Phase of the 5-year grant. This will include a tobacco focus community needs assessment and development strategic plan specifically for the objectives of this program.

Choctaw @ Push S.P.I.T.

- **Participants**

- Choctaw Memorial Hospital
- Lane Frost Rehabilitation Center
- Kiamichi Technology Center
- Hugo Public Schools
- Little Dixie C.A.A.
- Choctaw County Health Department
- Housing Authority
- Local Banks: Bank First, First United, Security First National
- Wal-Mart
- McDonald's
- Chamber of Commerce
- Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service
- Mental Health Center
- Hugo Daily News
- Community members at large
- Choctaw Nation CORE Capacity
- Women's Action League
- Choctaw County Schools
- SOSU
- Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Board
- Pushmataha Public School systems
- Bearcats Against Drugs
- First Baptist Church
- Volunteer Fire Departments in Antlers, Moyers, Rattan, Clayton and Finley communities
- Finley Community Board
- Finley Senior Food Nutrition Center
- Pushmataha County Health Department
- City Police
- Senior Citizens
- Antlers American
- Little Dixie Community Action Agency
- Mental Health Counseling Center
- First Bank/Ameristate Bank
- City Government
- Local Youth
- Pushmataha County Sheriff's Department
- Antlers Chamber of Commerce
- Clayton First Baptist Church
- Choctaw Nation