



North Dakota Tobacco Prevention and Control Executive Committee
Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control Policy
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Testimony to the Interim Health Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chair
Dr. Beth Hughes, Chair, Executive Committee
North Dakota Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control Policy
January 8, 2014

Requested information:

- Tobacco prevention & control activity on the reservations
- Efforts to collaborate with tribal programs
- Recommendations for additional opportunities to collaborate

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The North Dakota Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control Policy provides \$15,815,828 in funding for three-fourths of the statewide comprehensive tobacco prevention and control program. (The other funding, about \$5.5 million, is in the Department of Health budget.)

The Center invests nearly two-thirds of its budget (\$10.4 million) in three statewide and community grant programs. The grant programs fund all local public health units serving every county including reservation populations. The grant programs provide public education and promote model comprehensive tobacco-free, smoke-free, and cessation referral policies; and fund collaborative activities between tribal programs and Center-funded state and local programs and other partner programs. The policies are to serve all residents both on and off American Indian reservations.

The three Center-funded grant programs are:

- 1) Local Tobacco Control Policy Grants (\$7.5 million) and**
- 2) Tobacco Settlement State Aid Grants (\$1.1 million) to all LPHUs,**
- 3) Special Initiative Grants (up to \$1.8 million, multiple grants) and contract (\$70,000) to support collaborative activities and model comprehensive local and state tobacco-free and smoke-free policies on and off reservations.**

Some highlights of how the Center grant programs benefit the American Indian populations both on and off the reservations include the following:

- Local public health unit policy grant work on reservations resulted in comprehensive tobacco-free policies in the following four K-12 or elementary schools: New Town (public), Mandaree (public), Ojibwa Indian School (Belcourt, nonpublic), and Theodore Jamerson Elementary School (United Tribes, Bismarck, Bureau of Indian Affairs school). Of 21 schools serving reservations or the Trenton service area, four schools -- Dunseith Day Elementary School, Twin Buttes (Halliday), Eight Mile public school in Trenton, and Warwick --were tobacco-free prior to Center funding in FY2010.
- Local public health unit policy grant work with United Tribes Technical College resulted in a comprehensive tobacco-free policy for the campus including the college and its elementary school. United Tribes is the only tribal college in North Dakota to pass a comprehensive tobacco-free policy.
- As reported to this committee in October 2013, the Center awarded a Special Initiative Grant to American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation, and the work plan included an objective to work closely with all partners to advance commercial tobacco prevention policies on tribal lands. The Center has discussed the details of this objective with leadership of the Department of Health, Indian Affairs Commission, North Dakota State University Master's of Public Health Program Director Dr. Don Warne, and local public health units. This has led to plans for a state-tribal strategic plan for commercial tobacco control for American Indians on and off reservations.
- The Center awarded a contract to the Public Health Law Center to develop model comprehensive tobacco-free and smoke-free policies. This assures that Center grantees

promote only model policies that provide the greatest health protection possible, are enforceable, are equitable in that they are comparable from site-to-site, and meet several specific criteria to be considered comprehensive. The Center standard for model comprehensive policies assures that cities, schools or other places adopting policies will have as strong a policy as their fellow cities and schools. With model comprehensive policies as a standard, no group should be “left behind” with weaker smoke-free or tobacco-free laws than their neighbors.

Center approaches to tobacco prevention and control activities on and off reservations

- The Center requires that funded programs show policy and health outcomes that can be documented by adoption of model comprehensive policies and over time, show reduction in tobacco use.
- The Center maintains an up-to-date database of the following comprehensive policies: smoke-free city ordinances, K-12 tobacco-free schools, tobacco-free colleges and universities, smoke-free and tobacco-free parks and recreation areas, and smoke-free and tobacco-free grounds. All new policies must be submitted to the Center for verification of comprehensiveness before being added to the database.

The Center offers the following recommendations to strengthen efforts on and off the reservation to reach all American Indians and all North Dakota residents:

- **Continued Center and other funding of the comprehensive statewide tobacco prevention and control program at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s recommended Best Practice level.**
- **Continued and increased Center communication and joint planning and implementation with other partners serving American Indians on and off reservations, to assure any barriers to passage of model comprehensive policies are removed and policy and health outcomes are documented.**
- **Continued promotion of only model comprehensive tobacco-free, smoke-free and cessation referral policies by the Center and its grantees and other partners.**
- **Continued up-to-date validation and documentation of model comprehensive policies as provided by the Center.**