

**ADDITION TO THE OWENSBORO HEALTH
COMMUNITY HEALTH INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES (1-29-18)**

Owensboro Health recognizes the challenges and perceived barriers to mandating a tobacco free environment. As a healthcare system whose mission is to heal the sick and improve the health of the communities we serve, and given the following facts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and United States Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”), you will now find in our revised grant guidelines (1-29-2018) a requirement which states, ***“all organizations submitting an Owensboro Health Community Health Investment grant application must provide evidence of a tobacco free policy approved by its governing board upon submission of the grant application. There are few to no exceptions to these guidelines. Owensboro Health reserves the right to consider extremely rare and unique exceptions to all its grants guidelines and any exceptions would only be considered on an individual basis.*”**

Whereas:

Cigarette smoking harms nearly every organ of the body, causes many diseases, and reduces the health of smokers in general.

Quitting smoking lowers your risk for smoking-related diseases and can add years to your life.

Cigarette smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States.

Cigarette smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths each year in the United States. This is nearly one in five deaths.

Smoking causes about 90% (or 9 out of 10) of all lung cancer deaths.^{1,2} More women die from lung cancer each year than from breast cancer.

Smoking causes about 80% (or 8 out of 10) of all deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Cigarette smoking increases risk for death from all causes in men and women.

There is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure; even brief exposure can be harmful to health.

Information above is from the CDC and HHS:

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/effects_cig_smoking/index.htm

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/secondhand_smoke/general_facts/index.htm

We are committed to assisting applicants as you seek to implement programs, develop your policies, assist your clients and your staff, and communicate your policy. (Sample policies and resource contacts provided upon request.)

- **Policies must be in place 365 days a year, 24 hours a day for all applicant’s buildings and properties in and outside.**
- **Designated smoking areas are not permissible within a 100% tobacco free policy.**
- **Tobacco free includes smoke-less tobacco, electronic cigarettes and all vaping devices.**
- ***Upon request we will be happy to assist applicants seeking resources for tobacco cessation education.***

NOTE: Should an applicant develop and provide proof of policy but not enforce it, Owensboro Health funds could be revoked and the organization prohibited from applying for future funding from this program.