

# Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Community College Grant Initiative

## **Tobacco Use**

Tobacco use is the leading cause of premature and preventable death responsible for over 480,000 deaths annually in the United States. Research also shows that there are dire health consequences for non-smokers, too. Secondhand smoke exposure causes cancer and cardiovascular disease as well as other diseases, and is responsible for more than 41,000 deaths in the U.S. each year. With 99 percent of smokers starting before age 27, college campuses are critical platforms for preventing young adults from starting tobacco use, aiding those current tobacco users in quitting, and reducing exposure to secondhand smoke.

## **Why Community Colleges?**

In 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launched an effort – Tobacco-Free College Campus Initiative (TFCCI) to promote and support the adoption and implementation of tobacco-free policies at institutions of higher learning. Support for 100 percent smoke-free and tobacco-free policies on college campuses has skyrocketed in recent years. The number of colleges and universities with 100 percent smoke- or tobacco-free policies tripled from 446 campuses in 2010 to 1,475 campuses in 2016.<sup>1</sup> Much of that progress has been achieved by four-year universities.

Community colleges in the U.S. serve almost half –46 percent- of the undergraduate students in the U.S. With enrollment of nearly 13 million students, community colleges serve as an entryway to higher education for many students of color, in addition to low-income and first-generation college students.<sup>2</sup> Community Colleges have a great opportunity to be at the forefront of advancing the health of their respective campus communities, including students, faculty, and staff.

## **About the Initiative**

In October 2014, Truth Initiative launched a competitive mini-grants program aimed at enhancing the capacity of public community colleges to develop, adopt, and implement 100 percent smoke- or tobacco-free campus policies. Grant funds and technical assistance provided by Truth Initiative support efforts toward adopting a 100 percent smoke- or tobacco- free campus policy. Through two prior rounds of grants, Truth Initiative is currently partnering with 54 community colleges across 25 states.

---

<sup>1</sup> Americans for Non-Smokers' Rights website. Accessed Jan 24, 2016. <http://www.no-smoke.org/goingsmokefree.php?id=447>

<sup>2</sup> American Association of Community Colleges. 2015 Fact Sheet. January 2015.

To complement our grant efforts, Truth Initiative will engage and support community college systems, local districts and college administrators to encourage community colleges within the system to adopt a 100 percent smoke- or tobacco-free campus policies.

Public community colleges interested in working toward adopting a 100 percent smoke- or tobacco- free policy by December 31, 2017, are eligible for up to \$10,000 in grant funding and technical assistance.

Eligible applicants include public community colleges that do not have a 100 percent smoke or 100 percent tobacco free campus policy. Interested applicants will need to complete a brief online proposal.

Please note that prior recipients of Truth Initiative's community college grants are not eligible to apply.

### **Funding and Timeline**

The call for applications will be released on **March 1, 2016**. To be eligible for a \$10,000 grant, applicants must submit a proposal by April 29, 2016. Colleges unable to make this deadline can apply for a \$7,500 grant due on July 15, 2016.

Eligible Funding Amount	Applications Due	Project Start Date	Project End Date
Up to \$10,000	April 29, 2016	June 15, 2016	December 31, 2017
Up to \$7,500	July 15, 2016	September 1, 2016	December 31, 2017

Please check our website on March 1 for the grant guidelines and a link to the online application.

We at Truth Initiative are excited to partner with community colleges to expand the movement in support of smoke-free community colleges.

### **About Truth Initiative**

A national public health organization dedicated to achieving a culture where all youth and young adults reject tobacco.

### **What is a 100 Percent Smoke-Free or Tobacco- Free Policy?**

A 100 percent *tobacco-free policy* prohibits the use of any tobacco product, such as cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, small cigars, pipes, hookah, smokeless tobacco (otherwise known as dip, chew, snuff, spit, and snus), and other smokeless products. It can also include electronic cigarettes. A comprehensive tobacco-free policy could also address tobacco sales, marketing, sponsorship, and investments at colleges.

A 100 percent *smoke-free policy* is one that prohibits the use of smoke-producing tobacco, such as cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, small cigars, pipes, hookah as well as e-cigarettes. Both policies apply to anyone on campus and on any campus property. For more information on model campus policies, visit [Americans for Non-Smokers' Rights](#).

Please direct any questions to [communitycollege@truthinitiative.org](mailto:communitycollege@truthinitiative.org) or call Alexandra Parks at 202-454-5931 or Kristen Tertzakian at 202-454-5788.