

Best Practices in Tobacco Control

Executive Summary

The New Haven Health Department will work toward creating a tobacco-free environment for all residents by providing comprehensive tobacco control efforts aimed at preventing tobacco use initiation, promoting cessation, and eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS) and aerosol among residents in New Haven and the Greater New Haven area. By addressing the health risks of commercial tobacco use and advocating for policy changes, this project seeks to reduce the significant health disparities related to tobacco use.

The proposed project will utilize evidence-based strategies recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including:

1. **Developing Community Partnerships and Coalitions:** Engaging local schools, community groups, health organizations, and state agencies to create a unified approach to tobacco control.
2. **Strategic Planning and Collaboration:** Establishing a comprehensive tobacco control plan, engaging all relevant stakeholders, and ensuring active collaboration across local and state agencies.
3. **Policy Advocacy and Change:** Educating the community and policymakers on evidence-based strategies to influence tobacco-related policies, such as expanding public park tobacco bans to include marijuana and promoting smoke-free environments.
4. **Engaging Stakeholders in Tobacco-Related Disparities:** Identifying and eliminating disparities in tobacco use across different demographic groups, with a special focus on underserved communities.
5. **Data Collection and Analysis:** Conducting surveys to collect data on tobacco use and cessation outcomes. This data will be essential in refining strategies, measuring impact, and ensuring program effectiveness.
6. **Training and Technical Assistance:** Providing training to community health workers, educators, and other stakeholders on tobacco use prevention, cessation strategies, and support services.

The project will adopt a family-centered approach by involving parents and caregivers in cessation programs and expanding access to community-based cessation support groups. These programs will provide the necessary resources and support to both youth and adults, offering them a pathway to quitting tobacco use and reducing secondhand

smoke exposure. Additionally, public education campaigns will be launched to raise awareness of the harmful effects of secondhand smoke and promote smoke-free policies.

Key stakeholders include the NHPS Superintendent, local community leaders, and diverse neighborhood populations. The program will employ a dedicated Project Coordinator, two Community Health Workers, a Health Educator trained in tobacco control, and a Data Specialist to ensure the program's effectiveness and continuous improvement.