

**Summary of Tobacco and Health Trust Funded Contracts  
As of September 30, 2017**

**Infrastructure, Administration, and Management**

BEST PRACTICES DESCRIPTION OF ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT:

A comprehensive tobacco control program requires considerable funding to implement; therefore, a fully functioning infrastructure must be in place in order to achieve the capacity to implement effective interventions.<sup>1-6</sup> Sufficient capacity is essential for program sustainability, efficacy, and efficiency, and enables programs to plan their strategic efforts, provide strong leadership, and foster collaboration among the state and local tobacco control communities. An adequate number of skilled staff is also necessary to provide or facilitate program oversight, technical assistance, and training.

*Funded under 2015 and 2016 Board Disbursements*

**Hispanic Health Council (HHC)**

**\$ 214,896**

Contract Log #2015-0081-2 was amended March 17, 2017 for the period of 9/1/2014-3/31/2019

The Hispanic Health Council has been developing the retrospective report, reviewing figures and data to ensure accuracy in reporting. In conjunction with DPH they have established the format for the report, and HHC has developed lists of funded projects as well as reviewed evaluation reports that have been produced for the Trust Funded programs, information to be included in the report.

HHC has reviewed how Connecticut compares to the rest of the nation in terms of adult smoking and how Connecticut has been able to implement the CDC's Best Practices for Tobacco Control Programs. HHC has also reviewed different strategies and recommendations provided by the CDC and the Surgeon General for recommendations for future Trust Fund projects.

**State and Community Interventions**

BEST PRACTICES DESCRIPTION OF STATE AND COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS:

These interventions target social norms in order to influence behavior change, using coordinated and combined societal and community resources. Interventions can focus on building community capacity, awareness, engagement, and mobilization; coordination of state efforts, policies, laws, and regulations; and influencing people in their daily environment. These interventions cover a wide range of areas, and a multi-faceted range of interventions is desirable for this solicitation.

*Funded under FY 2015 Board Recommended Disbursement  
(Funded under RFP 2015-0904)*

**Community Mental Health Affiliates (CMHA)**

**\$ 194,000**

Contract #2016-0122-1 Executed 10/19/2016 for the period of 12/1/2015-12/31/2018

Service Area – Berlin, Bristol, New Britain, Plainville, Southington and Plymouth

*CMHA will oversee the development of a 'Photovoice' Project involving youth in their service area who will use photography as a means for portraying youth tobacco use in their community, for developing messages to prevent the onset of tobacco use among their peers, and for identifying policies and laws in their community that need to change to further reduce youth initiation of tobacco use. They will also develop an anti-tobacco community media campaign that will create public service messages to discourage youth tobacco use and publicizing where to get help to stop smoking, and conduct outreach to tobacco merchants who may be selling tobacco products to minors.*

In June, teams were provided a draft letter to use for working on the policy initiative for Tobacco 21, which is to promote increasing the legal age for the sale of tobacco products to 21. Groups were encouraged to use the letter to write to policy makers, and a kickoff event was planned with students and New Britain's baseball team. The plan was submitted for approval.

Teams continue to recruit new students, and Photovoice teams are continuing to promote the project within their schools. Teams have submitted their surveys and retail assessments to the Rescue Agency.

**Connecticut Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs**

\$ 472,218

Contract Log #2016-0123-1 was executed 12/12/16 and will run until 1/31/2019

Service Area – Communities served by the 18 local Boys and Girls Clubs statewide (complete list on attachment). The program is currently being implemented in 16 Boys and Girls Clubs statewide. Due to the uncertainty of the CT Juvenile Training School in Middletown, participation by that club is on hold.

*The Connecticut Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs works with 50,000 youth, ages 6 to 18 in 37 towns and cities across Connecticut during after school and summer hours. This youth prevention program will include developing a total of 350 teen youth leaders led by a Program Coordinator and a Teen Youth Advisor in each Club to be ambassadors for healthy living and to impact policy in their communities. Participating youth will conduct activities in their community that assess youth access to tobacco retailers and merchants, decrease tobacco industry advertising, messaging and sponsorship, as well as identify tobacco use in movies and entertainment. Youth will develop anti-tobacco industry messaging and organize events that bring community, state and local partners together to raise awareness.*

A training activity was conducted in June for Club staff on reporting as well as staff training on store assessments. In July, 24 teens planned a collaboration with centers/schools to promote their cause. 28 participants helped plan a 'Healthy Habits Day' event for 150 day camp members. In July, a community car wash was hosted where a table was set up to talk to customers about the dangers of tobacco. The 'Be Smart, Don't Start' teen leaders planned and implemented an activity during the summer camp programs called Big Bucks, which illustrated the personal financial impact of smoking and tobacco. In August, 24 youth participated in the DEFY camp (Drug Education for Youth) and conducted a community scan and planned a project for phase two of the camp.

**EdAdvance****\$ 269,759**

Contract Log Number 2016-0117-1 was executed on November 21, 2016; Contract Period is 12/1/2015-12/31/2018

Service Area –Barkhamsted, Canaan, Colebrook, Cornwall, Goshen, Hartland, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, New Hartford, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Torrington, Warren, Winchester; Northwestern Connecticut Community College

*EdAdvance (formerly Education Connection) will provide leadership and training of youth and teen advocates to implement digital and social media and marketing tobacco use prevention campaigns. They will collaborate with community-based coalitions, elected officials, and key community stakeholders to develop policies to restrict access to tobacco products by youth and to achieve voluntary adoption of policies that limit or ban tobacco product advertisements in merchant store fronts and at check-out counters, as well as eliminating tobacco sponsorship of youth events, equipment and programs. EdAdvance will lead its partners to build student/young adult advocacy, develop an infrastructure of support with campus administrators and decision makers, and promote campus-wide tobacco-free messaging and systemic policy change to advocate for tobacco free living.*

The Advisory Council has expanded to seven members. Five students were accepted to attend the Tobacco-Free Youth Summit in Washington DC during July. These students were trained by Rescue to complete Store Assessment Surveys, Public Opinion Surveys, and Local Opinion Leader Surveys. Training was extended to knowledge on tobacco-free advocacy and leadership using models from the CDC and the US Department of Health and Human Services.

60 Individuals (56 students, 4 project staff) were also trained on Local Opinion Leadership Surveys and Public Opinion Surveys. These 56 students conducted surveys in Thomaston, Cornwall, Litchfield, Winsted, Torrington, and Watertown. 62 club participants attend the CT Film Festival where they watched the 90-second PSAs that the students had created. A total of 750 individuals attended the Festival.

In June participants attended a discussion with a project partner about tobacco-free advocacy at People's State Park, and observed if park visitors abided by the park's tobacco-free rules. Students decided to advocate for more tobacco-free signage around the park due to the litter of cigarette butts.

**Southern CT State University (SCSU)****\$ 235,496**

MOA Log 2016-0118-1 was executed on October 12, 2016 for the period of 12/1/2015-12/31/2018

*SCSU will train, support and empower anti-tobacco advocates (Tobacco-Free Ambassadors, or TFAs). These TFA's will engage and mobilize their peers through campus community outreach and education, conducting demonstrations and events with a focus on preventing the initiation of tobacco use among non-smokers and peer-referrals to on campus cessation services for current tobacco users. They will also conduct exchange events where incentives will be provided to students for handing in tobacco products to promote and enforce the tobacco free campus policy. SCSU will provide technical assistance and training to four other colleges and universities within Connecticut to assist them in developing and implementing tobacco free campus policies. The Health and Wellness Center will offer enhanced onsite cessation services for both students and staff.*

Tobacco Free Ambassadors held 12 events that engaged 395 students and referred 144 students to cessation services. The third 'Tobacco and Vape Exchange' event was held during September. Two students exchanged devices for gift cards. Three students referred a friend for cessation services; two students requested information on cessation services and one student took a flyer. Posters advertising campus policies and cessation resources continue to be posted in residence halls and on the Wellness Center's social media sites. 14 people have been referred through the 'Refer a Friend' cessation program offering the services that SCSU provides.

Efforts continued to promote and enforce the Tobacco Free Campus Policy: this included working with the University Police to encourage a more official stance on tobacco use and about certain areas where smokers tend to meet. A collaboration with University Human Resources has promoted employee cessation resources and protocol, as well as adding information to the Human Resources website.

The third Tobacco-Free Campus Partners conference is being planned and is scheduled for January 11, 2018 at Central Connecticut State University. The agenda includes addressing casual/social smokers; alternative tobacco products; and a panel on youth engagement.

*Funded under 2016 Board Recommended Disbursement  
(Funded under RFP 2016-0905)*

**EdAdvance** \$ 284,615

Contract Log No. 2018-0097 will be for the period through 12/31/2019.

This new contract is in the process of being executed.

*This award will provide funding for EdAdvance to expand their current efforts and activities into an additional six towns in Northwest Connecticut: Bethel, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, and Newtown. These six towns will be added to the activities after the first year of their current contract.*

**Rescue Agency** \$ 210,000

Contract Log No. 2018-0004 will be for the period of 12/31/2017-12/31/2019

This new contract is in the process of being executed.

*The RESCUE Agency will host events that incorporate role models and spokespersons with Alternative teens in Connecticut at various venues and concerts. Alternative teens will be recruited and trained to support the Blacklist anti-industry and cessation support messaging and will be onsite for additional events and promotions. These teens will also share information through social media that will include Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. This is years two and three of the Blacklist Campaign that began in Year 1 as a portion of the Mass Reach Health Communications campaign funded under RFP 2015-0904.*

## Mass Reach Health Communications

Best Practices description of Mass-Reach Health Communication Interventions:

These interventions include the various means by which public health information reaches large numbers of people to make meaningful changes in population-level awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors. These interventions promote and facilitate cessation, prevent tobacco use initiation and shape social norms related to tobacco use, but go beyond a traditional mass media placement.

*Funded under 2015 Board Recommended Disbursement  
(Funded under RFP 20015-0904)*

### **Rescue Agency**

**\$385,650**

The contractor received their executed contract 2016-0119 in June 2016. The contract period is being extended from 12/1/2015-06/30/2018.

RESCUE continued to develop the new 'brand' for the CT Quitline and cessation services "Commit to Quit", and developed a landing page for all cessation services that will include linking over to the CT Quitline as well as providing other options. This is to simplify the application process and cut down on the extraneous steps that residents need to go through at the current time to register online, in an effort to better promote all services available through the CT Quitline. "Live Better", the second ad campaign to be launched for social media and television is scheduled to begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November 2017 and play through February of 2018. In addition, companion materials are being developed and will be made available to all of the community programs.

The Blacklist Initiative is an online and events-based youth prevention, anti-industry initiative designed exclusively for teens who continue to smoke. The Blacklist campaign specifically targets Alternative teens. There have been three message packages launched on social media. "Just the Facts" played December 9 2016- January 5, 2017; "The Remains" played from April 7, 2017 to May 13, 2017; and "Know the Issues" played from July 3, 2017 – August 7, 2017.

<b>OUTCOMES FOR "The Remains" :</b>	
Reach	228,459
Social Engagements (liked, comment, shared)	3,356
Video views	72,782

<b>OUTCOMES FOR "Know the Issues" :</b>	
Reach	242,111
Social Engagements (liked, comment, shared)	2,443
Video views	332,282

RESCUE also provided materials for all of the Community Intervention Contractors to gather the opinions of their community members and leaders regarding tobacco use, secondhand smoke policies

and to assess tobacco advertising and availability in stores in their service areas. These surveys and store assessments have been analyzed and the policy topic chosen for all of the contractors to work towards is Tobacco 21; increasing the legal age of sale of tobacco products to 21. A Tobacco 21 Partnership meeting was convened to discuss the strategic plan for this activity.

*Funded under 2016 Board Recommended Disbursement  
(Funded under RFP 2016-0905)*

**Rescue Agency** \$ 130,717

Contract Log No. 2018-0004 will be for the period of 12/31/2017-12/31/2019

This new contract is in the process of being executed.

*The award will extend Rescue Social Change's contract work for an additional two years. The contractor will continue to develop and place cessation campaign messaging through traditional and non-traditional vehicles as well as assist in message development and support for local contractors.*

#### **Cessation Interventions**

Best Practices description of Cessation Interventions: These interventions provide treatment services, such as directly delivering cessation counseling and medications through population-based services such as a telephone Quitline; as well as population-level strategic efforts to reconfigure policies and systems in order to normalize quitting, support tobacco free lifestyles, and ensure ongoing tobacco use screening and intervention are part of ongoing medical care.

*Funded under 2014 Board Recommended Disbursement  
(Funded under RFP 2014-0902)*

**Optum/Alere Wellbeing - CT Quitline** \$ 1,611,984

Contract Number 2015-0113-1 is executed for the period of 7/1/2014-6/30/2019.

Call volume has continued at a higher level due to the CDC's TIPS from Former Smokers campaign and the Commit to Quit Campaign, and has been increasing steadily month by month. The average number of registration calls volume has increased since last calendar year. The average number of registrations per month in 2016 was 301 and as of August 2017 the average number of registrations per month is 452.

*Funded under 2015 Board Recommended Disbursement  
(Funded under RFP 2015-0904)*

**Hartford Community Mental Health Center, dba Hartford Behavioral Health (HBH)** \$140,920

Contract 2016-0116-1 was executed 1/12/2017 and will be for the period from 12/31/2015-12/31/2018

Service Area - Andover, Avon, Berlin, Bloomfield, Bolton, Bristol, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Hebron, Kensington, Manchester, Marlborough, New Britain, Newington, Plainville, Plymouth, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Southington, Stafford, Suffield, Tolland, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, Windsor Locks

*HBH is providing tobacco use cessation treatment services including group and individual counseling programs, relapse prevention and cessation medications. All participants receive an initial 30 minute intensive counseling session and can then choose to participate in either individual or group counseling programs or both. HBH will perform outreach to area health care providers, train providers and partners, and collaborate with four community agencies to conduct tobacco cessation programming.*

The Program has served 37 clients to date for cessation services. HBH continues to provide technical assistance to the Hartford Housing Authority (HHA) on implementation of a smoke free housing policy. They developed a survey in English and Spanish which the HHA administered to residents and staff and are in the process of planning on-site cessation programs for residents and staff. In August HBH presented at a meeting of community leaders from all HHA Sites and they also attended on-site community meetings at 16 HHA sites and administrative offices to promote the cessation services. HBH has also been assisting the Wilson Grey YMCA on implementing their smoke free campus policy and providing training on tobacco screening and referral to services.

**Meriden Department of Health and Human Services**

**\$ 163,178**

Contract 2016-0120 is for the contract period of 12/1/2015-12/31/2017

Service Area - Meriden, Plainville, Southington, and Wallingford

*Meriden is providing tobacco cessation treatment services including group and individual counseling programs, relapse prevention and cessation medications. All participants receive an initial 30-minute intensive counseling session and can then choose to participate in either individual or group counseling programs or both. Services are being provided to residents of Meriden, as well as Plainville, Southington, and Wallingford. Health systems change programming, including trainings for medical providers to encourage individuals to quit smoking, QUIT Clinics (Quick Useful Information about Tobacco) at businesses, housing complexes, and private clubs as well as using text apps, such as Remind 101, to remind program participants of upcoming appointments.*

21 new clients were enrolled in cessation programs during this reporting period. Total enrollment number is now 159. 103 individual sessions were logged and 76 relapse prevention sessions were conducted during the past quarter. A vote on 7/19 approved an ordinance instituting a weekly smokeout day, when smoking is not permitted. Hosted two QUIT clinics, one at the Record Journal newspaper and the other at Stonehaven at Rushford Center, and a total of 30 people attended. Host a "Great Stonehaven Smokeout" even in August where 13 residents and 2 staff members signed a contract to commit to being tobacco free. Following the event, staff decided to make the property Tobacco Free every Tuesday. A vote was unanimously passed to make the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services campus tobacco free.

Meriden continues to maintain relationships with community organizations. Also continues to conduct major outreach efforts such as participate in a workshop conducted by the South Central Substance Abuse Council and establishing a resource table and bulletin board at Gaylord Hospital. Meriden continues its relationship with Meriden Healthy Youth Coalition, the Midstate Chamber of Commerce Wellness Council, and the Rushford Center.

**Midwestern Connecticut Council of Alcoholism (MCCA) \$ 425,000**

Contract 2016-0121 is for the period of 12/1/2015-12/31/2017

Service area: Bethel, Danbury, Derby, Kent, New Milford, New Haven, Ridgefield, Sharon, Torrington, and Waterbury.

*MCCA is providing tobacco cessation services including group and individual counseling programs, relapse prevention and cessation medications. All participants receive an initial 30-minute intensive counseling session and can then choose to participate in either individual or group counseling programs or both. MCCA will conduct in-person outreach to health care practices and social service organizations to promote screening and referral to program services, and are providing technical assistance to partner agencies including AmeriCares Free Clinics, Family and Children’s Aid, Mental Health Transitional Housing, Danbury High School, Naugatuck Community College and CT Institute for Communities.*

MCCA currently has 460 clients enrolled. One staff member participated in the UMass Center for Tobacco Treatment Research training and passed all requirements to be certified. The MCCA Program Director and Prevention Director continue to provide expertise on the effects of youth vaping to Danbury High School. Additionally, 500 “Commit to Quit” post cards were distributed at Danbury High School. MCCA’s involvement in Danbury High School has led to new vaping policies, parent education, and student awareness. The Program Director has worked with Naugatuck Community College in Waterbury and has led to the community college becoming a smoke-free campus as of August. MCCA has developed a new partnership with Butterbrook Housing Association for low-income residents in New Milford. MCCA is helping to create a policy and provide tobacco cessation services to current residents.

*Funded under 2016 Board Recommended Disbursement  
(Funded under RFP 2016-0905)*

**Uncas Health District \$ 147,420**

Contract 2018-0006 was executed 6/12/2017 for the period from 7/1/2017-6/30/2019

Service area: Bozrah, Griswold, Lebanon, Lisbon, Montville, Norwich, Salem, Sprague, and Voluntown

*Uncas Health District will provide tobacco use cessation treatment services within their service area. They will also provide: 1) outreach and training to health care providers on how to integrate the Department of Health and Human Services Clinical Practice Guidelines into clinical practice, 2) education to employers about the benefits of offering tobacco cessation services to their employees, providing health insurance coverage for tobacco use treatment services for their employees, and implementing tobacco-free worksites, 3) technical assistance to municipalities in the service area on implementation of*

*policies for tobacco-free spaces and places, and 4) technical assistance to multi-unit housing complexes on the implementation of tobacco-free housing policies.*

Uncas is holding planning meetings with its partners including Backus Hospital. They have established a main point of contact, the Director of Planning and Marketing, at the hospital. Backus, as a member of the Northeast CT Health Collaborative will be instrumental in Uncas’s outreach to health care providers in the region. They have also been meeting with other partners including Southeast CT Mental Health Authority, St. Vincent de Paul Place, Thames Valley Council for Community Action and United Community and Family Services to set up systems for screening and referral of clients to cessation services. Uncas has begun marketing their individual and group cessation counseling services. They are also developing contacts and preparing materials for their outreach and technical assistance to employers and multi-unit housing sites.

**University of Connecticut-School of Pharmacy** \$ 281,068  
Contract Number 2017-0097, Anticipated Contract period 5/1/2017 – 6/30/2019

*The University Of Connecticut School Of Pharmacy (UConn) will be developing and implementing an evidence-based tobacco use cessation treatment training curriculum for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians that will include a 15-hour Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education certificate program. A pilot program will be conducted with four Hartford-area pharmacies to conduct brief intervention counseling with patients and refer them to local cessation treatment at two area health clinics funded through the grant as well as the CT Quitline.*

The University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy staff attended training at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center for Tobacco Treatment Specialist – Train the Trainer and is holding meetings with its upcoming partners to continue to develop their program plan. The contract remains with UConn for signature as part of the process towards being executed.

### **Program Evaluation**

Best Practices description of Surveillance and Evaluation:

These interventions include surveillance: continually monitoring attitudes and behaviors and health outcomes over time, and Evaluation: Monitoring and documenting short-term, intermediate, and long-term outcomes within populations. This is accomplished through systematic collection of information about the activities and results of programs to inform decisions about future programming and/or increase understanding. Evaluation also serves to document or measure the effectiveness of programs, including policy and media efforts.

*Funded under 2015 Board Recommended Disbursement  
(Funded under RFP 2015-0904)*

**The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** \$ 345,392  
Contract 2014-0105 is currently executed through June 30, 2018.

*The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is responsible for designing and implementing formative and summative evaluations that include Cessation Intervention Programs, the Tobacco Use Cessation*

*Telephone Quitline, Mass Reach Health Communications and related media campaigns, State and Community Intervention Programs. The contractor develops and submits plans for their approach to evaluating each program component, and then prepares and submits written reports to the Department.*

During the period through September 30, 2017; the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill drafted summary documents, developed a potential public opinion survey regarding secondhand smoke exposure, and performed Quitline evaluation activities including follow up calls to Quitline registrants. They are also finalizing their evaluation plan for the Blacklist youth campaign and provided technical assistance to both Tobacco Program staff and contractors.

*Funded under 2016 Board Recommended Disbursement  
(Funded under RFP 2016-0905)*

**The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** \$ 124,625

Contract 2018-0005 is anticipated for the period from 9/1/2017-6/30/2020

This new contract is in the process of being executed.

UNC-Chapel Hill will continue to provide qualitative and quantitative independent evaluation of the trust-funded programs. They help to ensure that the evidence based is utilized in program operations, and assist with developing and complying with measurable objectives for contracted programs.

#### **OVERVIEW OF BEST PRACTICES:**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has developed an evidence-based guide to help states to implement comprehensive tobacco control programs that will reduce rates of tobacco use. This coordinated effort to establish smoke free policies and social norms, to promote and assist tobacco users to quit, and to prevent initiation of tobacco use combines educational, clinical, regulatory, economic, and social strategies. This guide, “Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs-2014” is divided into five areas of practice: 1) State and Community Interventions, 2) Mass-Reach Health Communication Interventions, 3) Cessation Interventions, 4) Surveillance and Evaluation, and 5) Infrastructure Administration and Management. This RFP covers the practice areas of 1-4.

#### **Resource:**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program-2014. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014.

Document is located at

[http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/stateandcommunity/best\\_practices/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/stateandcommunity/best_practices/index.htm)

*Funded under 2015 Board Recommended Disbursement*

**Department of Correction Smoking Cessation Program**

\$294,322

Trust funds were awarded to DOC in 2015 to continue its smoking cessation and education and relapse prevention program for offenders under the jurisdiction of the Department. DOC continues to integrate smoking cessation activities and efforts into routine healthcare activities of identified groups of inmates and assure continuity through relapse prevention mechanisms that deploy when inmates leave the system.

The integration of smoking prevention, education, and cessation information in documents such as the Inmate Handbook and orientation information (including the Quit Line) (1340 offenders received this information since September 2015), in the school curricula (153 offenders received smoking dependence information from USD#1 during the past year), and in the Addiction Services treatment models including both adult treatment (228 offenders during this past year) and Project X for the youthful offenders at Manson Youth Institution continues. QuitLine information is also integrated into the re-entry process for all discharging offenders.

During 2015-2016, there were 198 requests by offenders for help with assistance to stay quit on release from the Recovery Support Specialists. This assistance includes help with clinic appointments as well as telephone support during quitting. Forty female offenders received tobacco education, cessation, and prevention services through the job center at York Correctional Institution until layoffs forced closing of the job center.

*Funded under 2016 Board Recommended Disbursement*

**Department of Correction Smoking Cessation Program Half Way Houses**

\$152,126

Trust funds were awarded to DOC in 2016 to fund the expansion of DOC smoking cessation education and relapse prevention program to clients residing in the Departments' Half Way Houses (HWH). DOC in collaboration with the UCONN School of Social Work continues to work on the prevalence study of tobacco usage among residents in DOC's Halfway Houses. UCONN will report to DOC and key stakeholders at HWHs on outcomes in order to guide future program planning.

Community providers of HWHs have requested group education sessions as well as gift cards to support residents who cannot afford tobacco cessation products. Since 2013, \$12,250 has been spent to purchase 780 gift cards in denominations of \$10 to \$25 to CVS, Walmart, Subway, and Dunkin Donuts. To date, 378 gift cards have been distributed. DOC has requested that community providers of HWHs who want to adhere to a smoke free environment be given the support they need to become smoke free. Few HWHs are as yet able to follow this process. Two provider networks have been actively using the department's support as they transition to a smoke free environment.

There has been a change in the medical oversight for the HWHs. The halfway houses are no longer utilizing UCONN health for their medical care. Offenders living in the community no longer return to the DOC to receive health care and medicine, but instead are receiving services through local community health providers. This dynamic shift has been well anticipated by the community but has not necessarily led to people using these health providers for tobacco cessation. The HWH survey will help the department decide where to concentrate resources.