

Increase Funding for Texas Tobacco Control Programs



Legislative Ask

ACS CAN supports the Texas Department of State Health Services request for an additional \$3 million to increase tobacco prevention and cessation program. Additional funding will allow them to better address the vaping epidemic and expand the number of communities in Texas with comprehensive tobacco control programs.

Tobacco Remains a Serious Problem in Texas

- Tobacco use remains Texas' most preventable cause of death and is the leading cause of cancer deaths in Texas. An estimated 28,000 Texans die from tobacco-related illnesses annually. The proportion of cancer deaths in Texas attributable to smoking is 27.1%.ⁱ
- Slightly over 3 million of adults in Texas smoke, a rate of 13.1%. The national adult smoking rate is 12.0%.ⁱ
- Over 83,000 of Texas high school students smoke, a rate of 4.9%. The national high school smoking rate is 4.9%.ⁱ
- Nearly 19% of Texas high school students use e-cigarettes.ⁱ
- Nearly 500,000 kids now under the age of 18 and alive in Texas will ultimately die prematurely from smoking.

Economic Costs and Investments in Texas

- Texas spends nearly \$10.29 billion in annual health care costs directly caused by smoking – approximately \$2.1 billion directly paid by the state Medicaid program.ⁱ
- The state and federal tax burden to each Texas household from smoking-caused government expenditures equates to \$820 annually.ⁱ
- Texas' FY21 funding for tobacco control is \$3.5 million or 1.6% of the Centers of Disease Control Best Practices State Spending Recommendation of \$264 million.ⁱ
- The tobacco industry spends \$9.1 billion in marketing expenditures nationwide. The estimated portion spend in Texas is \$622.2 million annually.ⁱ

Tobacco Prevention Works ... When Adequately Funded

It is well established that comprehensive, adequately funded tobacco prevention and cessation programs save lives. We know what works, but funds are necessary to implement best practices. Continued funding for tobacco prevention will reduce smoking rates, reduce tobacco-related health care costs, and reduce the number of Texas children who will grow up to become addicted adult smokers.

ⁱCampaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, The Toll of Tobacco in Texas, October 2020.