

April 2009



Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition
E-Newsletter

Supporting Tobacco Control for Kansas

Also In This Issue:

More news from Salina	2
Youth group mini-grants available	2
Community grants awarded	2
Kansas again gets failing grades	2
KC Clean Air Sharing Session 2	

Internet Tobacco Control and Health Resource Links

Regional

Clean Air Kansas City
Clean Air Lawrence
Clean Air Manhattan
Reno County Tobacco Free
Central Kansas Foundation (Salina)
Tobacco Free Wichita

State

KDHE Tobacco Use Prevention TASK
Cancer Kansas
It's Everybody's Business
Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
Kansas Public Health Association
Kansas Health Institute

National

CDC Tobacco & Health Tobacco.Org
Americans for Non-Smokers Rights
Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids
Tobacco Control Network
American Cancer Society
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
National Cancer Institute

Decision time on a statewide clean indoor air law for Kansas

This week may determine whether there is sufficient support to compel leaders in the House of Representatives to debate and vote on HB 2221, the current version of a Kansas clean indoor air bill. Clean air advocates have been contacting their representatives during the April legislative break asking them to stand firm for a strong clean indoor air law, or to become a new supporter for this public health initiative.

More than 25 states already have adopted this law to protect their residents from the hazards of secondhand smoke in public places. There is still time to let legislators know that their constituents favor such a law.

Note: Advocates have scheduled a clean air rally on Wednesday, April 29 at 2:30 p.m. on the south side of the Capitol grounds to promote the passage of HB 2221. Everyone is invited to attend this event.

Emporia voters sustain smokefree ordinance

While the margin was slim, a majority of those voting in the City of Emporia agreed that a smoking ban was a good idea. A recount of ballots expanded the narrow lead from 6 to 8 votes, still an overwhelming victory for Clean Air Emporia and its supporters, who fought long and hard to restrict smoking in public places in their community.

Most of the smokefree ordinances in Kansas have been passed by local governing bodies. Emporia is only the third ballot initiative that has been held and then won by local clean indoor air advocates. Others are:

2002 defeat of a ballot that would have repealed the Salina smokefree restaurant ordinance (Salina's City Commission recently passed a tighter law that was challenged. See next page.)

2008 passage of a ballot initiative to establish Clean Air Manhattan's smokefree ordinance

The mission of Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition is to reduce the prevalence of tobacco use among Kansans, particularly among children and youth, to improve health and to avoid the negative economic impact of tobacco use.



E-Newsletter

More news from Salina

Further discussion of the city's comprehensive smoking ban in public buildings, set to take effect May 2, was on the Salina City Commission agenda April 27. Opponents of the ban asked that commissioners repeal the stronger clean indoor air ordinance, which was approved by the prior city commission on Jan. 12.

After discussing the issue and listening to speakers, the commission took no action on the request and the ordinance will go into effect Saturday.

Youth group mini-grants available

TFKC and TASK are offering mini-grant funding of up to \$1,250 for youth groups from grants awarded to TFKC and TASK from the American Legacy Foundation® and the Kansas Health Foundation. This is the second round of funding for this project.

The grants will be used to engage youth in implementing tobacco prevention and media strategies for youth groups across Kansas. New or existing groups from 28 targeted Kansas counties are eligible to apply for funding through the American Legacy Foundation grant award, and youth groups from all Kansas counties are encouraged to apply for mini-grant funding through the Kansas Health Foundation grant award.

Grant projects are to be initiated between June and October of 2009 to allow for both school and summertime activities. Mini-grant applications are now available on the TFKC website at <http://www.tobaccofreekansas.org/home/> and will soon be on the www.kstask.org website.

Deadline for application submission is May 22, 2009. Contact Tracey Winters, TFKC Youth Coordinator, for additional information or to be put on a grant contact list at twinters@tobaccofreekansas.org, 785-272-8396.

Community grants awarded

TFKC gave community grants of \$5,000 each to four organizations. The community grantees are: Clean Air Emporia, Clean Air Topeka, Clean Air Cowley County and Clean Air Sedgwick County. The grants are to promote collaborative initiatives to support clean indoor air policies in public places which reduce the exposure of local residents and workers to the toxins of secondhand smoke.

Kansas again gets failing grades

The American Lung Association has released its 21st edition of SLATI, and Kansas received three "F"s and a "D." SLATI (State Legislated Actions on Tobacco Issues) is an extensively researched and invaluable source of information on state tobacco control laws and policy.

Kansas received a "D" in the category of cigarette tax and "F"s in tobacco prevention and control spending, smokefree air, and cessation coverage.

The Kansas report can be viewed at <http://www.stateoftobaccocontrol.org/2008/states/report-card.html?state=ks>.

KC Clean Air Sharing Session

Introduce a volunteer to Clean Air Kansas City and celebrate smoke free progress. The informational session will be held May 20 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at The REACH Healthcare Foundation, 6700 Antioch Road, Suite 200, Merriam, KS.

RSVP to: Lindsay.Kimball@jocogov.org.