

**TOBACCO PREVENTION INITIATIVE WORK/PROJECT AREA:**

**Activities that support the State's Clean Indoor Air Act and local smoke-free laws in Jefferson County**

The Tobacco Prevention Initiative works to provide education, technical assistance and other support to increase compliance with both local and State smoke-free workplace laws

**Community partners include:**

Local law enforcement agencies and city staff in 7 jurisdictions in Jefferson County – these agencies have liaison personnel working with our team to support and coordinate efforts to increase compliance and enforcement and include unincorporated Jefferson County, Edgewater, Wheat Ridge, Lakewood, Westminster, Arvada, and Golden.

Citizens Against Unhealthy, Smoke-Filled Environments (CAUSE) – this is the County's coalition supporting efforts to make all public and workplaces smoke-free; the leadership of CAUSE has played a key role in identifying business struggling with compliance as well as providing support for policy advocacy efforts

Jefferson County District Attorney's Office – work with the D.A.'s Special Investigator has helped to increase the support for strengthening local policy and protocol

Technical Assistance and Resource Partnership (TARP) - American Lung Association, Colorado Tobacco Education and Prevention Alliance (CTEPA), and the Group to Alleviate Smoking Pollution (GASP) provide support to the TPI as well as to our liaison officers.

**Accomplishments of 2007-2008 grant year:**

- Increased the number of jurisdictions having designated liaison officers to work with the TPI on compliance issues; these include Edgewater, Morrison and Westminster
- Increased the number of Clean Indoor Air compliance checks by 40% percent
- Continued positive partnership-building with local law enforcement agencies to coordinate compliance checks, response to complaints and relevant remediation. Increased compliance activities in Arvada and Wheat Ridge have resulted in some consideration of the value of increasing the strength of local policies/laws.
- Worked with the Consumer Protection team at JCDHE to implement a department policy to deny issuance of food service licenses to tobacco businesses, including hookah bars
- Developing a relationship with City leadership in Edgewater to strengthen compliance and explore the expansion of areas where smoking is prohibited.
- Supported a number of organizations in increasing effective use of smoke/tobacco-free signage

**How we accomplished this work:**

- Continued to develop a working relationship with local law enforcement agencies and municipal staff working on smoke-free law compliance issues.
- Working with coalition members to address community and business concerns/struggles around compliance
- Engaging partners in regular meetings to share lessons learned and explore new opportunities

**Challenges:**

- Ambiguities in the CCIAA around cigar bars, hookah bars, and patio enclosures continue to be a challenge

- Finding effective ways to engage the influence and expertise of the DA's Special Investigator to support local enforcement efforts has also been challenging

**Plans for 2008-2009 grant year:**

- Revise and distribute the compliance checklist form for liaison officers in all 7 jurisdictions
- Develop an educational brochure to inform prospective business owners about the stipulations of local and state smoke-free workplace laws. These will be distributed to municipal offices as well as the Consumer Protection Program in Jefferson County.
- Complete a minimum of 16 compliance checks which will include follow-up education and report of outcomes to liaison officers
- Host a training on how to conduct compliance assessments and report outcomes with TPI team and smoke-free advocates
- Host a meeting with local law enforcement to strengthen collaboration and report results to local liaisons

**How can you support these activities?**

We need one or two members to volunteer and be trained in doing compliance assessments; this is a low intensity and minimal time commitment opportunity to positively impact tobacco control. If you know of community members, business owners, community leaders, etc., who are interested in advocating for expanding the strength of local smoke-free laws, please let us know.

Please contact Ed Ellis at (303) 275-7565 or [ejellis@jeffco.us](mailto:ejellis@jeffco.us) for more information and to assist with these activities.