



TOBACCO FREE KANSAS COALITION

For Immediate Release
November 15, 2010

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Mini-Grant Opportunities for Youth-Led Tobacco-Use Prevention Projects

TOPEKA, KAN. - The Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition, Inc. (TFKC) has grant funding from the Kansas Health Foundation to assist TASK, the statewide youth movement against tobacco, to support youth-led tobacco prevention efforts in communities across the state. Grant funding up to \$1,250 can assist in engaging youth in tobacco prevention education and media to help young people avoid tobacco use.

“The mini-grant funding encourages teens to ask questions and seek answers on why young people are lured into being new smokers using products that support the tobacco industry,” TFKC Executive Director Mary Jayne Hellebust said. “These youth designed and directed projects empower Kansas youth to make reasoned decisions on the importance of avoiding a product that addicts 2,900 young Kansans every year.” She also noted: “These youth mini-grant projects will help teens in Kansas design their own media ads, programs and activities to promote their own version about the truth of tobacco use.”

Tobacco use remains a leading public health issue in Kansas. The 2009 Kansas Youth Tobacco Survey found that 17.1% of Kansas high school students smoke. The mini-grant program encourages creativity in producing youth-led projects that focus on protecting TASK members and their peers from becoming addicted to cigarettes and tobacco products. One objective is to increase the number of school districts with policies for tobacco free school grounds.

The TASK Web site at www.kstask.org and the TFKC website at www.tobaccofreekansas.org both contain the grant application and submission requirements. The deadline for this round of applications is January 10th, 2011 with award announcement made by January 28th, 2011.

Erica Anderson (eanderson@tobaccofreekansas.org), TFKC Adult and Youth Community Outreach Coordinator, can be contacted for technical support and additional information about the submission process.

About Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition

The Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition is a statewide alliance of health, education, parent, youth, law enforcement and other civic organizations and individuals concerned about tobacco use in Kansas. TFKC promotes laws, policies and funding of effective programs that will result in significant reductions in tobacco use and addiction, especially among children and high-risk groups. The coalition’s major goals are to prevent children from beginning a lifelong addiction to tobacco, to help those who want to quit smoking, to protect non-smokers from exposure to secondhand smoke and to protect and assist those populations disparately affected by tobacco use. For more information on TFKC visit www.tobaccofreekansas.org.

TASK is the Kansas’ youth-led movement that promotes tobacco free teens and unites communities to create one strong voice speaking out for freedom from tobacco addiction. The mini-grant program is expanding youth-led efforts in Kansas to increase the numbers of Kansas youth committed to showing how tobacco is produced and marketed so that youth can make up their own minds about using any kind of tobacco product. For more information please visit kstask.org.

About the Kansas Health Foundation

The Kansas Health Foundation is a philanthropy dedicated to improving the health of all Kansas. For more information about the Kansas Health Foundation, visit www.kansashealth.org.

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