

Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership



The Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) has led El Paso County's tobacco education and prevention activities for more than 15 years.

Concerned about the high prevalence of youth and adult tobacco usage, TEPP is currently focusing on educating the public about tobacco-free policies and evidence-based tobacco cessation interventions. The program recently earned a grant from Colorado's Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Initiative to focus on preventing tobacco initiation among youth and young adults in the cities of Fountain and Manitou Springs. This grant is funded through Amendment 35 voter-approved tobacco tax.

Tobacco use is a primary risk factor for cardiovascular disease, cancer and respiratory disease. Tobacco-related illnesses in Colorado account for more than \$1.3 billion in annual health care costs and over \$1 billion in lost productivity.

Program Goals

- **Tobacco Cessation**

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment administers the Colorado QuitLine, a free telephone service that provides free coaching and nicotine patches to medically eligible Coloradans.

- **Tobacco Prevention - Youth & Young Adult Initiatives**

The majority of people who smoke started before the age of 18. Research shows that the earlier a person starts smoking, the greater the likelihood that he or she will become a lifelong smoker. The Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Initiative focuses on preventing and reducing tobacco use by youth and young adults through evidence-based strategies including public education and public policy work.

- **Secondhand Smoke**

The Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Initiative focuses on reducing the number of Colorado infants, children, teenagers and adults exposed to tobacco smoke and reinforcing the importance of smoke-free work, living and social environments.

Coalition

TEPP actively collaborates with more than 30 community partners for its Tobacco Education Coalition (TEC). Members include local health care agencies; non-profits that represent disparate health populations; and citizen activists who work at local and state levels to achieve public policy changes. TEPP staff also are a resource for TEC members by providing updates on tobacco regulations and policy changes, new tobacco products and health effects, and rallying coalition support to reduce use of tobacco products in El Paso County.

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