

## **Summary of STOP Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program Tennessee Higher Education Commission and Tennessee Department of Health**

The STOP program partners are LEAs in nine designated Tennessee Counties, the Department of Health, and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. THEC has allied the University of Tennessee Knoxville, Middle Tennessee State University, and East Tennessee State University to provide specific elements of the STOP Program. The goal of this coalition is to support county schools and local communities in establishing programs for tobacco use prevention and cessation among youth and their families. The nine counties of the coalition are Campbell, Cocke, Grundy, Hardeman, Johnson, Lake, Meigs, Union, and Wayne.

**County Project Budget.** A total of \$65,000 will be made available to each county to carry out the program. Of this amount, no more than \$45,000 will be dedicated to salary and benefits for a local coordinator and the remainder will be used for travel, local operations, office space, and program materials.

On or before September 1, 2008, each LEA will receive \$16,250. This transfer to your county will occur using the same method used for the GEAR UP payment. Subsequent payments will occur on or before October 1, 2009; January 1, 2009; and April 1, 2009. At the end of the grant period, the Grantee shall submit a grant disbursement reconciliation report on or before August 1, 2009, in a prescribed format to the State. The reconciliation will include proper documentation regarding expenditures of salary and benefits, and expenditures on non-salary/benefit items.

**County Program Coordination:** Each county will employ a local coordinator who will have responsibility for managing the county's participation in the program. Essential to program management will be building local support for the program through existing community health councils or other existing or established community coalitions. The local coordinator will be provided training, materials, monthly conferences with the THEC program director and weekly conference calls or visits from the regional coordinator.

**Required Surveys and Evaluation.** Each county will be asked to permit a pre/post tobacco use survey in schools served by GEAR UP TN, working with the University of Tennessee Knoxville on project evaluation. Additionally, UTK will oversee evaluation of particular interventions that address the five core components of the program listed below.

**Required Core Components.** Each county will be asked to implement five core components of the program. The county will have flexibility in how it chooses to implement these core components, but all counties will address these same five components. The county coordinator will receive training on strategies for implementing the five core components and a "toolkit" or guidelines to support your local decisions. Coordinators will also receive training on implementing additional optional activities that could also meet community needs. The five core components are:

1. Community collaboration model to engage all appropriate stakeholders
2. Review of the school tobacco-free policy including comprehensiveness, enforcement, and possible alternatives to suspension
3. Student engagement/discussion with others about whom they are concerned about tobacco use cessation
4. Student-designed marketing campaign to encourage tobacco use cessation/prevention
5. Student-led public relations efforts about tobacco use cessation/prevention

**Coordinator Training.** Training for local and regional coordinators will occur throughout the year. The training will be provided by Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Health and Human Services. The first training is set for August 19, 2008 at MTSU, with a second to be scheduled for early September. The first training sessions in program implementation will address the five core components and strategic decisions for addressing them, building community coalitions similar to those constructed by GEAR UP TN, project budget management, project surveys and evaluations, and program sustainability planning.