

Fund Tobacco Control, Protect Lung Health

Pennsylvania receives Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) funds from the tobacco industry in order to compensate the state for the harm caused by tobacco use. Act 77 of 2001 created the Tobacco Settlement Fund (TSF) to receive the revenues from the Master Settlement Agreement that was reached with the five major tobacco companies on December 17, 1999. A portion of the TSF was established to provide funding to tobacco prevention and cessation services. Currently, less than 5% of funding supports these services and due to securitization in 2017, these programs are at an increased risk of losing funding annually.



Tobacco prevention and cessation programs are a smart investment for states that want to save lives and save money by reducing smoking-related healthcare costs. Tobacco use kills more than **22,000 adults** in Pennsylvania every year and **costs taxpayers \$14 billion annually**; including \$6.38 billion in health care costs. \$2.07 million of these costs are incurred by the state Medicaid program.



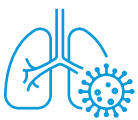
For every dollar spent on tobacco prevention, states **reduce tobacco-related healthcare expenditures and hospitalizations by up to \$55**.



Maintaining tobacco prevention and control funding is always critical to preventing death and disease as well as reducing healthcare costs, and it is particularly essential during the COVID-19 pandemic. The CDC has identified smokers as a group of people who may be at a higher risk for severe illness if they contract the disease.



While more research into COVID-19 is needed, a recent study published by the New England Journal of Medicine found **people who smoke were more than twice as likely to have severe symptoms from COVID-19** compared to those who did not smoke.



Cigarette smoking and vaping are linked to lung inflammation, as well as reduced lung and immune function, all of which can **increase the likelihood of complications if exposed to COVID-19**. Therefore, long-term smokers have a higher risk of developing chronic lung conditions and serious infections associated with severe cases.

Lung health has never been more important. It is essential these lifesaving services continue to be funded to protect current and future generations of Pennsylvanians.



RECOMMENDATION: Maintain level state funding (\$13.754 million) for FY22 and seek to increase funds for comprehensive tobacco prevention and control programs.

Pennsylvania State Highlights American Lung Association State of Tobacco Control 2021.
<https://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/tobacco/reports-resources/sotc/state-grades/highlights.html>

MPOWER Annual Summary Report, SFY2019-20.
https://www.livehealthypa.com/docs/default-source/tobacco-use/mpower_2018.pdf?sfvrsn=12

Master Settlement Agreement Public Health Law Center.
<https://publichealthlawcenter.org/topics/tobacco-control/tobacco-control-litigation/master-settlement-agreement>

American Lung Association on COVID-19 and Protecting Lung Health: Quit Smoking and Vaping
<https://www.lung.org/media/press-releases/covid-19-and-protecting-lung-health>

