



Funding the Tobacco and Vapor Product Prevention & Control Program: The Antidote to Tobacco Use in Washington

The Problem:

- **Each year 8,300 Washington adults die** from smoking-related illness.
- **More than 14,000 Washington high school students smoke**, and one in three kids who are addicted to smoking will ultimately die prematurely from smoking-caused disease.
- **Nearly 30% of Washington high school students use electronic cigarettes, like Juul.** Kids should not be using any tobacco product.
- **Each year Washington spends \$2.8 billion** in health care costs caused by smoking.
- The tobacco industry spends \$90.1 million annually in Washington marketing their deadly and addictive products.
- Washington received over \$548.5M in 2019 in tobacco revenues and from the Master Settlement Agreement.
Washington only invests \$2.1 million in tobacco prevention efforts per year in tobacco use prevention efforts.

The Solution:

Fund the state Tobacco and Vapor Product Prevention & Control Program at \$9.6 million (15% of CDC's recommended amount) and protect Washington's kids from all tobacco products including e-cigarettes.

Unfortunately, over the years state funding for tobacco programs has dropped dramatically. Washingtonians who smoke continue to suffer from their dangerous addiction, youth continue to use tobacco products especially e-cigarettes, in alarming numbers. In addition, communities of color and the LGBT community suffer from disproportionately high tobacco use and health disparities. The tobacco industry's aggressive targeting of these communities underscores the dire need for community-based prevention, education and cessation efforts.

Tobacco prevention and cessation programs reduce smoking and save lives but also save money by reducing tobacco-related health care costs. When well-funded, the Washington **Tobacco Prevention and Control Program saved \$5 in healthcare costs for every \$1 invested.** This strong return on investment demonstrates that tobacco prevention is one of the smartest and most fiscally responsible investments states can make.

Despite CDC recommendations to invest \$63.6 million annually in a comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation program, the **Department of Health has only \$2.1 million appropriated in the current biennium.**

Save Lives. Save Money. Protect Our Kids. Fund Washington's Tobacco Prevention Control Program at \$9.6 million without further delay.