



Tobacco Control
Legal Consortium



Tobacco Control Legal Consortium

The Tobacco Control Legal Consortium has been America's primary source of legal technical assistance on tobacco control policy since 2003. Our mission is to support policy, systems and environmental change to improve the nation's health by reducing tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke. We do this by helping community leaders develop, implement and defend tobacco control policies that are evidence-based, legally sound and workable. Each year, the Consortium helps hundreds of health officials, lawmakers and advocates nationwide with every conceivable tobacco law-related issue, from smoke-free policies, taxation, and tobacco sales and marketing, to retail licensing, zoning, and product regulation. As a result, we have helped shape much of the legal infrastructure of our nation's response to the tobacco epidemic.

An innovative and award-winning collaborative network of legal programs, the Consortium is based at the Public Health Law Center at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota, www.publichealthlawcenter.org. Our St. Paul staff of five experienced Consortium attorneys draws on a wealth of specialized legal expertise from around the U.S., including our affiliated legal centers serving California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan and New York.

The Consortium has been nationally recognized as a "go to" resource on tobacco policy for years. In 2004, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded the Consortium its National/Regional Collaboration Award for our collaborative approach to legal technical assistance. Today, among our other work, we serve as a consultant to the CDC's Office of Smoking and Health on the federal Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.

The Consortium's legal team is the primary source of legal technical assistance on tobacco-related issues in the Communities Putting Prevention to Work Program. Our seasoned attorneys are deeply immersed in the work of CPPW grantees, providing (1) one-to-one assistance in solving urgent problems of individual communities; (2) training and presentations with user-friendly policy information; (3) practical resources, materials and publications to guide policy advocacy; and (4) strategic expertise in helping communities defend their policies against legal challenges. Our hallmark is service to the community, as we work daily to improve health through the power of law.