PUBLIC HEALTH LAW CENTER
at Mitchell Hamline School of Law

www.publichealthlawcenter.org

WHAT IS LEGAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?

Law can present both barriers and opportunities for public health initiatives. Local, state, federal, and Tribal laws impact public health policy development in many ways — both expected and unexpected. The nationally recognized Public Health Law Center provides tailored legal technical assistance that makes the difference between success and failure in using law and policy to improve public health across a community. We collaborate with others to reduce and eliminate commercial tobacco, promote healthy food, support physical activity, and address climate change.

Centering Health Equity

Justice, equity, and health equity are at the heart of our work. Law and policy can promote justice and health, but they can also contribute to health disparities, inequities, and injustices and entrench systemic forms of oppression. Health equity is achieved by promoting a high standard of health for everyone while concentrating on underserved populations at a higher risk of poor health.

Legal Research & Analysis

Center attorneys research, analyze, and explain complex public health legal issues. We provide assistance on climate justice, commercial tobacco, food marketing, nutrition policies, physical activity policies, healthy food access, promoting health equity, improving worker health, product regulation, land use planning, and incorporating health into all policies. Our years of experience researching and analyzing local, state, federal, and Tribal laws help communities identify, develop, enact, and implement public health policies that are equitable, evidence-based, workable, legally sound, and tailored for a specific jurisdiction.

Educational Resources

We produce clear, user-friendly public health law and policy resources that demystify complex regulatory issues and allow anyone — public health official, local policy maker, community member, advocate, etc. — to understand their community's public health legal issues.

Policy Drafting Assistance

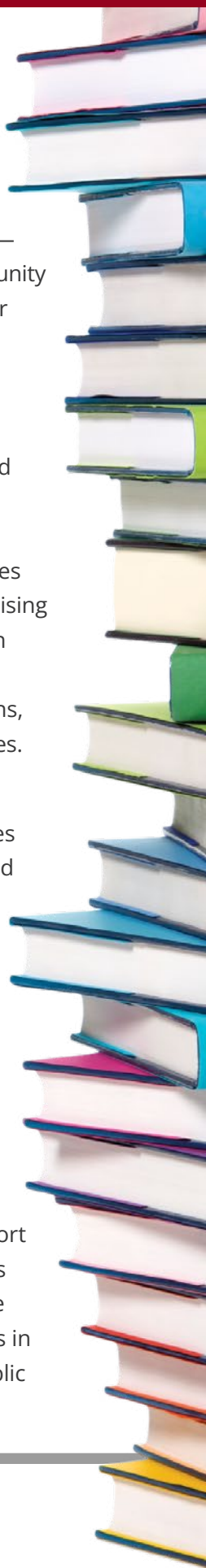
We field hundreds of requests a year for assistance in drafting, analyzing, critiquing, and amending laws, regulations, and other forms of policy. Although we do not provide legal advice or engage in lobbying, we help advocates understand the legal landscape, identify promising policy levers, and avoid pitfalls. We can explain the impacts of proposed amendments, draft meaningful comments on proposed regulations, and craft common sense organizational policies.

Trainings

We provide training on public health law issues through on-site presentations, workshops, and webinars on timely public health-related topics. Many of our staff are published legal scholars and regularly teach courses on public health law and policy issues.

Litigation Support

Innovative and effective public health laws are often challenged in court. Although the Center does not provide legal representation, we help defend public health laws from legal challenges in other ways. Our attorneys support federal, state, and local government attorneys in defending important public health laws. We coordinate and draft friend-of-the-court briefs in high-impact cases to inform judges of the public health significance of the cases before them.



Email or call us at (651) 290-7506 to see how we can help you improve health through the power of law.