Welcome to the Center of Excellence in Tobacco Policy, a national team of commercial tobacco law and policy experts housed at the Public Health Law Center. The New York State Department of Health has contracted with our team to support you — New York public health professionals and communities — in your work to end the commercial tobacco epidemic in New York State.

The Public Health Law Center is a national non-profit organization that collaborates with others to reduce and eliminate the use of commercial tobacco, promote healthy food, support physical activity, tackle climate change, and address other causes of chronic disease. Our belief in health and equity for all people is at the core of our work. Our partnerships include Tribal health leaders, federal agencies, national health advocacy organizations, state and local governments, planners, researchers, attorneys,
community coalitions, and individuals working on public health issues. We’re committed to using our deep knowledge, thoughtful legal and policy analysis, and individualized approach to help create healthier communities in New York State.

For more about the Center and the tobacco control attorneys and policy analysts on our New York team, check out our webinar, Introducing the Center of Excellence in Tobacco Policy.

**HOW CAN THE CENTER HELP YOU?**

Law can present both barriers and opportunities for public health initiatives. The Center provides you with tailored legal technical assistance to help you succeed in using law and policy to improve public health in your community.

**Legal Research and Analysis**

The attorneys at the Center specialize in researching, analyzing, and explaining complex public health legal issues in common sense terms. The Center is ready to receive your requests for legal technical assistance on a multitude of issues related to commercial tobacco control. In responding to these requests, we draw on over two decades of experience researching and analyzing local, state, federal, and Tribal laws to help communities identify, develop, enact, and implement public health policies that are evidence-based, workable, legally sound, and tailored for a specific jurisdiction.

**Educational Publications & Resources**

The Center is nationally recognized for our clear, user-friendly public health law and policy resources. We develop materials that demystify complex regulatory issues and allow anyone — public health officials, local policy makers, community members, teachers, advocates, and the general public — to understand the legal issues concerning public health initiatives in their communities. For the Center’s latest New York State-specific tobacco-related resources and upcoming presentations, please visit our webpage [here](#).

**What does legal technical assistance look like?** Several Advancing Tobacco-Free Communities (ATFC) grantees, including representatives of a nonprofit organization and a local health department, asked the Center for help in understanding the application of New York’s new outdoor smoking law, and our analysis turned into [this fact sheet](#).
Policy Drafting Assistance

Every year, the Center’s attorneys field hundreds of requests for assistance in drafting, analyzing, critiquing, and amending public health laws, regulations, and related policies. Although the Center does not provide legal advice or engage in lobbying, we help grantees, communities, tobacco control partners, and public health officials understand how best to use policy to achieve their public health goals, as well as how to avoid potential pitfalls. We can explain the impact of proposed amendments to laws, draft meaningful comments on proposed regulations, and craft common sense organizational policies.

Trainings

The Center provides training on public health law issues in a variety of ways. We give presentations, conduct workshops, and develop webinars and videos on timely commercial tobacco control-related topics. Many of our in-house legal experts are also published authors and regularly provide guest lectures for public health classes on law and policy.

Litigation Support

Innovative and effective public health laws sometimes face the test of litigation. Although the Center’s attorneys do not provide legal representation, they can help defend public health laws from legal challenges in other ways. The Center’s attorneys provide litigation strategy consulting to federal, state, and local government attorneys to support their efforts to defend important, new public health laws. The Center has also coordinated or drafted friend-of-the-court (amicus) briefs in high impact cases to ensure that judges are informed about the greater public health significance of the cases before them.

Contact us for assistance! If you’re working on New York State commercial tobacco control issues and need assistance, contact Mike Freiberg at michael.freiberg@mitchellhamline.edu

This fact sheet was prepared by the Public Health Law Center, a nonprofit organization that provides information and legal technical assistance on issues related to public health, and was made possible through a contract with the New York State Department of Health. The Center does not provide legal representation or advice. The information in this document should not be considered legal advice.