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DOH-PINELLAS RECOGNIZES THE PINELLAS COUNTY JOB CORPS CENTER AS A TOBACCO FREE WORKSITE



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The Tobacco Program staff at the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas) works with business to assist them in going tobacco free for greater health and productivity. The staff partnered with the Pinellas County Job Corps Center, 500 22nd St. S., in St. Petersburg, to help it become a Tobacco Free Worksite (TFW).

The Pinellas location is part of the national Job Corps training program that provides no-cost education and career technical training program to young people ages 16 to 24. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and operated by ODLE Management LLC.

To make the healthy change positive and achievable for its students and staff, the Pinellas Job Corps Center announced the project in December 2017 and developed a comprehensive plan of action to help stakeholders be successful in quitting. On July 1, 2018, the policy was implemented and enforced.

From its Center Director, Samuel Kolapo, to center management and staff, everyone pitched in to highlight and support the smoke-free policy. Nicotine replacement therapy, counseling and support were provided to encourage quitting.

Kolapo stated, "As a Tobacco Free Worksite (TFW) Center, we are not only protecting non-smoking students and staff from passive smoking but also encourage smokers to quit. Our program helps youth to be healthy, independent, productive and responsible tax-paying members of our local community. Currently 90 percent of the Pinellas County Job Corps graduates obtain full time employment, enroll in higher education or enlist in the military. It is a life-changing program."

"The successful transition by the Job Corp was very impressive and underscores the accomplishments that can be achieved when using a positive and supportive approach" said DOH-Pinellas Tobacco Policy Coordinator Susan Jenkins.

Businesses that want to go smoke-free to create a healthier, more productive work environment can contact Jenkins for assistance by calling (727) 275-6247.

For information about DOH-Pinellas, go to (727) 824-6900 or follow us on Twitter @HealthyPinellas.

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Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable disease and death in Florida and the U.S.ⁱ On average, smokers die 10 years earlier than nonsmokers.ⁱⁱ For every person who dies, at least 30 people live with a serious smoking-related illness.ⁱⁱⁱ About 30 percent of cancer deaths in Florida are caused by cigarette smoking.^{iv} Smoking not only affects one's health, it also impacts individuals financially. A pack-a-day smoker in Florida can spend more than \$2,100 in just one year and more than \$10,500 in five years.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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About Tobacco Free Florida

The department's Tobacco Free Florida campaign is a statewide cessation and prevention campaign funded by Florida's tobacco settlement fund. Since the program began in 2007, more than 159,000 Floridians have successfully quit using one of Tobacco Free Florida's free tools and services. There are now approximately 451,000 fewer adult smokers in Florida than there was 10 years ago, and the state has saved \$17.7 billion in health care costs. To learn more about Tobacco Free Florida's Quit Your Way services, visit www.tobaccofreeflorida.com or follow the campaign on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TobaccoFreeFlorida or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/tobaccofreefla.

ⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014.

ⁱⁱ Jha P, Ramasundarahettige C, Landsman V, et al. 21st Century Hazards of Smoking and Benefits of Cessation in the United States. *New England Journal of Medicine* 2013;368:341–50 [accessed 2017 Mar 28].

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014.

^{iv} Lortet-Tieulent J, Goding Sauer A, Siegel RL, Miller KD, Islami F, Fedewa SA, Jacobs EJ, Jemal A. State-Level Cancer Mortality Attributable to Cigarette Smoking in the United States. *JAMA Intern Med.* 2016;176(12):1792-1798. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2016.6530.