

Organized Labor & Tobacco Control N E T W O R K

“This network will help us achieve the important goals of reducing tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke — especially among working people and their families — by involving unions as key partners.”

— **Cheryl Heaton, DrPH**
*President and CEO,
American Legacy Foundation*

“We are concerned about our members’ safety and health, both on and off the job. We are proud to join the network in building strong ties between labor unions and health groups in ways that benefit our members and all working families.”

— **Terence O’ Sullivan**
*General President, Laborers’ International
Union of North America (LIUNA)*

The Purpose of the Organized Labor & Tobacco Control Network

The Organized Labor and Tobacco Control Network seeks to reduce class-based health disparities due to high levels of tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke among working people and their families.

The network serves as a catalyst to forge powerful collaborations, by bringing together individuals and organizations that represent the labor and tobacco control movements.

Smoking and Exposure to Secondhand Smoke: A Growing Social Disparity

Although major gains have been made in the last few decades to reduce smoking rates and exposure to secondhand smoke in the general population, some people have been left behind. Those in blue-collar and service jobs – such as craft workers, laborers, and restaurant workers – are more likely to smoke and be exposed to secondhand smoke. They will also be less successful in giving up smoking than their white-collar counterparts, despite the same number of attempts to quit. These growing disparities illustrate a need for new tobacco control strategies and partnerships. Labor unions, which include many blue-collar and other workers, are well-positioned to help in reducing smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

Why Unions Are a Natural Ally for Tobacco Control Efforts

Labor unions care deeply about the health of their members, and can be involved in tobacco control policy.

In addition:

- Unions are a credible source of information for their members and have a strong infrastructure for communicating with and mobilizing them.
- Labor unions and tobacco control groups share concern at the way tobacco industry advertising manipulates the strong union values of solidarity, equality, and freedom to its own political and financial gain.

What Unions and the Tobacco Control Movement Can Do

To help reduce health disparities affecting working people and their families, unions and the tobacco control movement can:

- provide union members and their families with information and referrals for preventing and stopping tobacco use
- join together in coalitions in support of tobacco control policies, such as smoke-free worksites and coverage for smoking cessation services
- advocate for labor-management health insurance providers to extend coverage of smoking cessation services
- divest union pension funds of tobacco company investments

What The Organized Labor & Tobacco Control Network Can Do for You

We can provide:

- consultation on how to create links between the labor and tobacco control movements
- information, presentations, and other resources about how to work with labor unions and the tobacco control movement
- networking, research, and educational opportunities through network-sponsored activities

The Organized Labor & Tobacco Control Network is a joint effort of the Center for Community-Based Research at the Harvard-affiliated Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Department of Work Environment at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

Organized Labor &
Tobacco Control
N E T W O R K

Please mail to:

Deborah L. McLellan
Executive Director
The Organized Labor &
Tobacco Control Network
c/o Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
44 Binney Street, Smith 2
Boston, MA 02115

Yes, I am interested in learning more about
The Organized Labor and Tobacco Control Network.
Please add my name to your mailing list.

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

I am part of the (please check one):

- tobacco control movement
- organized labor movement

I am interested in (check all that apply):

- receiving updates about labor and tobacco issues
- getting information about labor and tobacco
- networking with contacts in my area
- participating in research studies run by
The Organized Labor and Tobacco Control Network
- taking part in future training programs about:
 - labor unions
 - the tobacco control movement
 - labor and tobacco issues

Advisory Board

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