

Project H.E.A.L (Help Empower All of Louisiana) helps hospitals establish 100% tobacco-free campuses, provide comprehensive cessation support, and build tobacco-free communities.



Key Talking Points for Project H.E.A.L. (Helping Empower all of Louisiana)

Fundamental Purpose of Project H.E.A.L.

- Hospitals are ideal role models of healthy environments within the community. The Initiative for hospitals to become 100% tobacco-free campus supports this goal by protecting patients, employees, and visitors from any exposure to second-hand smoke. According to a recent U.S. Surgeon General Report, there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke. Therefore, a 100% tobacco-free campus wide policy is the only option.
- These policies include parking lots, sidewalks, lawn areas, and all hospital-owned properties.
- Hospitals will provide cessation services to those patients and staff members ready to quit tobacco.

Benefits of a 100% Tobacco-free Campus Wide Policy

- This policy showcases the hospital's role as a community leader in protecting the health of the public and motivates others to do likewise.
- By encouraging employees to quit and preventing secondhand smoke exposure, the Initiative reduces healthcare costs due to illnesses caused by tobacco use and exposure, and reduces expenses incurred by loss of productivity and absenteeism.
- By increasing the number of tobacco-free environments, the policy supports people in quitting the use of tobacco. Hospitals are increasing and enhancing the cessation benefits and resources they offer to their employees to help them successfully quit.

Background

- Louisiana's Critical Access Hospitals are taking the initiative to become tobacco-free, following in the spirit of the state's ACT 815.
- With many of Louisiana's Critical Access Hospitals, such as North Oaks being tobacco-free, our goal is for 100% (of LA's hospitals) to be 100% (tobacco-free).

Critical Access Hospitals – Pilot Program

- Richland Parish Hospital (Delhi, LA)
- West Feliciana Medical Center (St. Francisville, LA)
- Bunkie General Hospital (Bunkie, LA)
- Lallie Kemp – LSUHSC (Independence, LA)
- Pointe Coupee General Hospital (New Roads, LA)
- Union General Hospital (Farmerville, LA)
- W.O. Moss Regional Medical Center (Lake Charles, LA)