



EMERGING Promising Practices

Mobilizing Faith Communities in Support of Tobacco Control Policies: Creation of the Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition



HFHC members gather for a vigil at the Indiana Statehouse in remembrance of those who died from tobacco related illnesses.



This document has been written and/or reviewed in May 2011 by members of NLTCN:
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PROBLEM ADDRESSED

In Indiana, every year more than 19,000 children become addicted to tobacco, of whom a third will die prematurely because of this addiction. In 2010 more than 9,700 Hoosiers (nickname for Indiana residents) will die from tobacco use and thousands more will suffer from illness and health problems caused by smoking and secondhand smoke. Smoking-caused health problems cost Indiana a total of more than \$2 billion per year, including more than \$478 million paid for by the state Medicaid program with taxpayer dollars.

Indiana receives more than \$125 million in settlement payments each year from the tobacco companies through the Master Settlement Agreement. The Indiana Legislature uses this tobacco settlement money and other revenue to fund the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation (ITPC) the agency that with an independent Board is to address this issue. ITPC received \$35 million during its first year, but the Legislature has been reducing this amount ever since. In 2011, ITPTC is expected to receive less than \$10 million. The CDC recommended funding for Indiana is \$78.8 million.

ITPC has been very effective in reducing smoking rates in youth and adults. Nonetheless, the 2009 BRFSS indicates that 23% of adults are still smoking and 18% of high school youth smoke. ITPC has effectively been mobilizing youth advocacy through VOICE, creating capacity at the county level through coalitions, building leadership in minority communities, partnering with health care providers, sponsoring smoke free events and venues, launching a strong multi-media counter-advertising campaign and providing Quitline and other cessation services among others, but without funding it cannot sustain its gains.

Although Latino communities in Indiana represent only 6% of the state population, a statewide Latino agency has been able to build tobacco control leadership and capacity in eight counties, and has become a leader in tobacco control through a strong partnership with ITPC and engagement in the tobacco control movement.

DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANTS

People of faith believe that the body is a spiritual temple. They have an essential interest in reducing tobacco use and the toll of tobacco related illnesses, particularly among children and youth who are targeted by the tobacco industry. Indiana is one of the states where new tobacco products are tested and launched; therefore, faith and health activists have to be aware and engaged to expose new tactics.

The participants are the members of the Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition. The Coalition includes members from different faith groups, Christians of many denominations, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and others. Also part of this coalition are members of the public health community, including national groups such as the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Americans for Non-Smokers Rights, American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, and American Heart Association. These national groups provide technical assistance, funding for advocacy and timely media support. At the state level, the coalition includes statewide agencies such as the Indiana Latino Institute, the Minority Health Coalition, the Indiana Public Health Association, and tens of others.

See: www.hoosierhealthandfaith.org



HFHC Members meet with Gov. Mitch Daniels at the Indiana State House to present Smoke-Free Resolution.

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DESCRIPTION OF INNOVATIVE ACTIVITY

Key components are:

- Building and creating coalitions with faith communities and health advocates
- Training on how to build relationships with the State Legislators
- Utilizing the media including how to conduct press conferences, write OpEds, etc.
- Engaging faith and health community members in advocacy
- Distributing educational materials on tobacco control
- Creating alliances with other CBOs on topics of joint interest such as domestic violence to gain support of faith groups.

“Because of our beliefs, we have an essential interest in reducing the toll of tobacco, particularly among children and youth who are targeted by the tobacco industry,” says Rev. Dan Gangler, Director of Communications, Indiana Area - United Methodist Church, Co-Chair Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition.

PROGRAM PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

This process started through a Technical Assistance agreement between the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids and the Indiana Latino Institute (ILI). The Indiana Latino Institute is a statewide Latino agency building capacity and leadership in Latino communities to address health and educational needs. ILI received funding from ITPC to build leadership and capacity in Latino communities to engage in tobacco control. ILI received minimum funding from the Campaign to convene a small group of churches in Indiana that were engaged at the national level on tobacco control. ILI created and maintained a database of this coalition from its inception. The Methodists and

Adventists were the first ones to begin the process. They came together and invited other faith groups interested in health issues and tobacco control. Members of the Tobacco Control Programs at the county levels, the Smoke Free Indy, Indiana Campaign for Smoke Free Air, and others took it upon themselves to visit churches, to engage Inter-Faith groups and ultimately engage them in tobacco control by encouraging participation in the Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition. During the visits, the church leadership was encouraged to sign a Resolution in support of tobacco control and health and in support of funding for programs that would effectively reduce tobacco use among youth.

ILI staff visited all of the Latino pastors and priests of the Latino faith groups, translated the resolution and obtained their support. ILI built relationships with Latino CBOs and specific faith groups in order to make tobacco control an important issue. This required supporting the issues vital to those faith groups and once an audience was present, educating them on tobacco.

The Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids hired Vinnie DeMarco (see Resources section), a consultant from Maryland who helped the group strategize and provided training on how to do visits at the State House and conduct press releases on the importance of tobacco control and how faith communities could support the following policy initiatives:

- a) Support for the ITPC budget for tobacco control programs and activities
- b) Support for the Statewide Clean Indoor Air Ordinance
- c) Support for various city Clean Indoor Air Ordinances
- d) Support for raising taxes at the state level

ILI built, updated and maintained the database of all of the faith and health groups attending the meetings and signing the Resolutions. ILI was the convener of the Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition.

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In the beginning, ILI played a leading role by convening meetings, drafting agendas, drafting minutes of the meetings, providing training and materials at each of the meetings. The Coalition drafted the attached resolutions in English and ILI translated/adapted into Spanish with participation from all of its members. The resolutions were based on Indiana facts but can be adopted or modified by any other state. The Coalition meets every month and receives information about developments throughout the year.

Each year, there is a breakfast or lunch gathering of the Coalition. During this event, the members take actions such as write letters, sign petitions, sign resolutions and other advocacy activities. Every year a large group of members of the Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition visited the State Legislators, sometimes for Valentine's Day to let them know about the importance of tobacco programs and other policy initiatives. They advocated for tobacco control and educated the members of the Legislature, the Governor, the press and the members of City Councils. Members have written OpEds, sent letters to the Editors of local and state newspapers, have held press conferences and have sponsored a full page Ad in the Indianapolis Star with the names of the partners in support of tobacco control funding and policies.



1st meeting of the Hoosier Faith & Health Coalition

The faith and health groups are located in almost every county in the state thereby represent local constituencies for the State Legislators. The Coalition's strength is not only the inter-faith nature of its coalition, but the linkages with ITPC and established public health groups and minority groups from around the state.

SETTING: FAITH BASED COMMUNITY RESOURCES NEEDED

The needed resources are:

- Members of faith-based organization
- A lead organization with strong visionary leadership, credibility, convening capacity and infrastructure able to develop agendas and provide support for the group
- Ability to create and maintain a database of all of the faith and health groups attending the meetings and signing the Resolutions
- Space, equipment and materials to conduct meetings
- Financial resources for training and consultant's fees as well as for yearly events
- A consultant with experience putting these coalitions together and being successful in another state
- Support for the State Tobacco Control Agency
- Support from national advocacy organizations such as the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids
- A website with information about the coalition efforts
- A Listserv or discussion list to engage members
faithhealth-talk: Hoosier Faith & Health Coalition Discussion List

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SKILLS USED

Key personnel would need to have leadership skills, knowledge of health effects of tobacco, tobacco control funding and tobacco control policy issues. It is recommended to have two key staff members who can organize meetings effectively and who can build strong productive relationships with various constituencies. Advocacy skills and knowledge of the legislative process as well as the budgetary process at the state level is also necessary, along with resources to fund media campaigns.

EVALUATION MEASURES

This effort was not evaluated in a formal way. There were no qualitative or quantitative studies. When it started, there was minimal and/or non-existent engagement of the faith community in tobacco control in Indiana. Six years later, there are over 800 faith groups engaged in tobacco control. In the first few years, they were effective in defending funding levels, but the state deficits have hampered funding streams and the MSA and other funds are being used to pay for other programs. The Coalition engaged in the statewide clean indoor air ordinance effort and several local ordinances. The statewide effort has not yet passed, but the cities of 32 local communities now have clean indoor air ordinances. Taxes were raised twice, in 2003 and 2007 from 15.5 cents (2003) to 55.5 cents to now 99.5% (2007). Representatives of the coalition continue their efforts essential to the movement.

SUSTAINING THIS INNOVATION

Providing continuous support and engaging faith and health communities are the two key elements for sustaining this activity. It is vital to have the leadership of a community-based organization that can be responsible for keeping the coalition data, meetings and events going. In addition, understanding from the public health community and the State Tobacco Control Agency of the value added to the movement by engaging the faith communities and how their unique role can be vital for defending achievements, maintaining funding levels and moving policies forward.

Data Results

The first year over 400 faith groups signed the resolution that was then sent to the members of the State Legislature for their consideration. The number of faith groups increased from 400 to 800 in 6 years. Each of the Faith groups put in their resolution the number of parishioners who were in the churches/synagogues and/or mosques. This way, the numbers of people represented by each of the resolutions was truly impressive. To date there are thousands of parishioners represented in the Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition.

Indiana's tobacco prevention efforts are working and must continue to be strengthened. The efforts of the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Control Program (ITPC) and its many local partners has resulted in a 42% drop in Hoosier high school smoking since 2000 and a 15% drop in adult smoking since 2001.



State Health Commissioner, Judy Monroe, addressing HFHC Members during an annual breakfast in support of their commitment for smoke free lifestyles.

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ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

When implementing this activity, following are some suggestions that other organizations may consider based on the principles and learning that evolved from this activity:

- Involve state tobacco control program and other public health advocacy groups in the team
- Start small with one to two churches and have them invite others
- Engage everyone when developing resolutions and creating a coalition
- Reach out to minority communities in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.
- Keep the coalition updated on the latest issues on tobacco control and activated with Action Alerts
- Continue educating the community based groups and faith groups
- Convene face to face meetings of the whole coalition in order to maintain high-levels of group enthusiasm



Community Outreach Specialist addresses health risks associated with tobacco consumption to youth congregation at local church.

Lessons Learned

- Be inclusive of all faiths, all racial and ethnic groups from the beginning of the effort
- Have a consultant who has the credibility to keep the effort going.
- Have faith communities invite others and energize their own statewide membership
- Use key dates such as Valentine's Day to advocate, hold vigils, other innovative activities
- Keep having face to face meeting in order to energize the coalition so members will not lose interest
- Celebrate your advocates and achievements by giving awards, etc.
- Assure that the coalition is working towards specific GOALS and/or winnable battles
- Share leadership roles so that many faith leaders take turns as Co-Chairs of the Coalition
- Use the media by inviting them to your events, writing press releases, etc...
- Educate the faith community about new industry tactics
- Ask for Technical Assistance from the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids and/or Americans for Non-Smokers Rights as needed

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HOOSIER FAITH AND HEALTH COALITION SMOKING REDUCTION RESOLUTION

CONSIDERANDO QUE: Como una persona de Fe, nosotros consideramos el cuerpo como un templo espiritual, y por lo tanto tenemos un interés esencial en reducir las muertes y las enfermedades producidas por el tabaco, particularmente entre niños y jóvenes que son el objetivo de las compañías tabacaleras;

CONSIDERANDO QUE: Cada año, más de 19,000 niños Hoosiers se convierten en adictos al tabaco, y un tercio de los cuales morirán prematuramente debido a esta adicción. Este año más de 9,500 Hoosiers morirán a causa del uso de tabaco y miles más sufrirán debido a enfermedades y problemas de salud por causa del fumar y el humo de segunda mano. Problemas de salud causados por el fumar le cuestan a Indiana un total de más de \$1.6 billones cada año, incluyendo más de \$380 millones pagados por el programa estatal Medicaid con dinero pagado de los impuestos;

CONSIDERANDO QUE: El Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (Centros para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades) de los Estados Unidos y otros expertos, han establecido que al financiar totalmente los programas estatales de prevención de tabaco, aumentando los impuestos al tabaco, y prohibiendo fumar en los lugares de trabajo, incluyendo restaurantes y bares, substancialmente disminuye el fumar y otros usos de tabaco, particularmente entre niños, reduciendo de este modo el costo de los daños provocados por el tabaco;

CONSIDERANDO QUE: Los esfuerzos de prevención de tabaco en Indiana están funcionando, deben continuar y fortalecerse. Los esfuerzos del programa del Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation (ITPC) y sus muchas agencias asociadas ha resultado en una disminución del 32% en el uso de tabaco en las Escuelas Secundarias de Indiana desde el año 2000 y una disminución del 10% entre los adultos desde el 2002;

CONSIDERANDO QUE: El Estado de Indiana recibe más de \$ 125 millones anualmente en pagos por el acuerdo con las compañías tabacaleras, la Legislatura de Indiana USA este dinero y otros recursos para financiar el ITPC a razón de \$16.2 millones anuales, que es exactamente la mitad de los fondos disponibles hace algunos años atrás; siendo así:

SE RESUELVE QUE: Los firmantes de este documento apoyan comprensivas y efectivas medidas de políticas públicas para prevenir y reducir el consumo de tabaco en el estado, particularmente entre los niños, incluyendo:
Recursos para los programas de prevención y cesación del estado de Indiana llevados a cabo por ITPC, con un mínimo \$78.8 millones anuales, que es el nivel recomendado por el Centro de Control de Enfermedades (Center for Disease Control);
Incrementar significativamente el impuesto al tabaco en Indiana, ayudando así a su control y usar esos recursos para financiar los programas de prevención y otros importantes programas de salud;
Asegurar que todos los lugares de trabajo a través del estado de Indiana sean completamente Libre de Humo todo el tiempo, incluyendo restaurantes, bares y casinos.

Por medio de esta firma, el _____ (nombre de la congregación)
de _____ (Ciudad), confirma su apoyo para cada una de las metas arriba mencionadas y se une al Hoosier Faith & Health Coalition y al Indiana Campaign for Smokefree Air, y por medio de la presente solicitamos a los miembros de la Asamblea General de Indiana, a considerar una acción efectiva, para promover y alcanzar a la brevedad posible las metas arriba mencionadas. La persona que firma también autoriza al Hoosier Faith & Health Coalition a usar esta Resolución ya firmada para promover las metas arriba mencionadas.

Nombre de la Organización: _____ # de Miembros: _____

Título: Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr./Otro: _____ Persona Contacto (imprima): _____

Dirección/Ciudad/Estado/Código Postal: _____

Teléfono, Fax, E-mail: _____

Firma Autorizada: _____ Fecha: _____

Por Favor Imprima su Nombre: _____ Título: _____

Por favor envíe este formulario al Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition, c/o Aida McCammon, 445 N. Pennsylvania Ave. Suite 800, Indianapolis, IN 46204 Fax: (317) 472-1056 Tel: (317) 472-1055. ¡Muchas Gracias!

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HOOSIER FAITH AND HEALTH COALITION
 SMOKING REDUCTION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: As people or faith, we believe that the body is a spiritual temple, we therefore have an essential interest in reducing the toll of tobacco, particularly among children and youth who are targeted by the tobacco industry;

WHEREAS: Every year more than 9,900 Hoosier children become addicted to tobacco, of whom a third will die prematurely because of this addiction. This year more than 9,700 Hoosiers will die from tobacco use and thousands more will suffer from illness and health problems caused by smoking and secondhand smoke. Smoking-caused health problems cost Indiana a total of more than \$2 billion per year, including more than \$487 million paid for by the state Medicaid program with taxpayer dollars;

WHEREAS: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and other experts have established that fully funding state tobacco prevention programs, increasing taxes on tobacco, and prohibiting smoking in workplaces, including restaurants and bars, substantially decrease smoking and other tobacco use, particularly among children, thereby reducing tobacco-caused harms and costs;

WHEREAS: Indiana's tobacco prevention efforts are working and must continue and strengthen. The efforts of the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (ITPC) and its many state and local partners has resulted in a 42% decrease in Hoosier high school smoking since 2000 and a decrease in adult smoking, to 23%, which is the lowest levels to date.

WHEREAS: Indiana receives more than \$125 million in settlement payments each year from the tobacco companies, the Indiana Legislature uses this tobacco settlement money to fund the ITPC at approximately \$10 million per year, which is just a fraction of the funding it had several years ago; be it:

- RESOLVED: That the undersigned endorses comprehensive and effective public policy measures to prevent and reduce smoking and other tobacco use in the state particularly among children, including to:
- Fund Indiana's tobacco prevention and cessation programs at the Indiana Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Agency (ITPC) to at least \$78.8 million annually, the level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control;
 - Significantly increase Indiana's tobacco tax to advance tobacco control, using the revenue to fund tobacco prevention and other critical health programs;
 - Ensure that all workplaces throughout the state are completely smoke free at all times, including restaurants, bars and casinos.

Through its signature below, the _____ (Name of congregation)
 of _____ (City), Indiana, confirms its support for each and all of the above goals, joins the Hoosier Health and Faith Coalition and the Indiana Campaign for Smokefree Air, and hereby asks the members of the Indiana General Assembly to take effective action to promote and achieve the above goals as quickly as possible. The undersigned also authorizes and encourages the Hoosier Health and Faith Coalition to use this signed Resolution to promote the above goals.

Organization Name: _____ Number of Members: _____

Title: Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr./Other: _____ Contact Person (Print): _____

Address, City, State, Zip: _____

Phone, Fax, E-mail: _____

Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please Print Name: _____ Title: _____

Please return to the Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition, c/o Aida McCammon, 445 N. Pennsylvania Ave. Suite 800, Indianapolis, IN 46204 Fax: (317) 472-1056 Phone: (317) 472-1055. Thank you

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Faith leaders defend anti-smoking agency

By staff writer

The Indianapolis Star

April 25, 2011 ET

As faith leaders, we are extremely disappointed by what the Senate Appropriations Committee proposes to do to the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation agency of state government.

First, the committee is recommending a \$5 million budget for ITPC. That's a cut of more than \$4 million from the governor's proposed budget for ITPC and half of what ITPC receives now.

Second, the proposal folds ITPC into the State Department of Health, ending its status as an independent agency. All these actions were done with no public hearing. Why Indiana's highly successful, 10-year old tobacco prevention and cessation agency has been targeted is a mystery.

This action is unacceptable to those of us in the faith communities who work with and support the efforts of ITPC statewide to reduce the use of tobacco in Indiana. For more than five years we have tried unsuccessfully to pass a comprehensive smoke-free workplace law in Indiana to prevent more deaths. Tobacco companies are unrelenting in their desire to make millions of dollars at the cost of more than 10,000 Hoosier lives per year and more than \$2 billion in health-care expenses related to tobacco.

Yet the Senate Public Policy Committee refused to hear any amendments to strengthen the bill and rightfully voted down a watered-down version. Now, we see an 11th-hour attempt to defund and incapacitate one of the few agencies in the state that has made a documented difference in improving public health and reducing health-care costs. The Senate's proposal is not about balancing the budget, since the funds for ITPC are not tax dollars; they are from the 1990s tobacco settlement fund from which Indiana receives \$125 million per year.

The Senate proposal not only leaves Indiana's tobacco prevention efforts severely underfunded, but it sets back tobacco prevention and cessation efforts indefinitely by abolishing ITPC's independent, volunteer, expert executive board. Instead of an independent board charting the course of this very successful program, committee members propose a bureaucratic solution that could cause the tobacco prevention program to fail.

Such a failure would mean a rollback in Indiana's progress on tobacco prevention during the past 10 years, causing a negative impact on the health of Hoosiers. This move is about shutting down efforts to effectively battle against the scourge of tobacco in Indiana. Such a move is unacceptable.

We call on the members of the General Assembly to reverse this committee's proposal and revert back to Gov. Mitch Daniels' budget: a \$9.23 million budget for an independent, research-based ITPC. The ITPC has worked successfully with faith and health volunteers and other community leaders and members across the state in order to combat the use of tobacco in Indiana. Their important work must continue.

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Governor introduces plan for a healthier Indiana by raising cigarette tax at least 25 cents a pack

INDIANAPOLIS - Governor Mitch Daniels proposed on Nov. 17 a simple yet innovative health plan that would provide health insurance coverage for more than 100,000 Hoosiers, reduce smoking rates - especially among kids - and immunize more Indiana children. The health initiatives would be funded by an increase in the state's cigarette tax.

Support for the plan already has been expressed by a number of organizations, including the Indiana State Medical Association, the Indiana Minority Health Coalition, Methodist Hospitals (Gary and Merrillville), Clarian Health, the Indiana Tobacco and Cessation Prevention Executive Board and the Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition, where more than 70 United Methodist congregations participate to eliminate tobacco from Indiana. U.S. Secretary of the Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt also applauded the governor's idea.

The Governor's Plan for a Healthier Indiana would lead to:

- Protection of children from the dangers of smoking and other diseases,
- Preventive care for more Hoosiers,
- Peace of mind for thousands of Hoosiers who currently have no health insurance and
- Personal responsibility to take control of health care decisions

"Indiana can't be a healthy state with the second highest rate of smoking in the country, and we can't lower our smoking rate when we sell some of the cheapest cigarettes in America," said Daniels.

Specifically, the governor has proposed a plan that would:

- Initiate an aggressive smoking cessation and reduction campaign, aimed especially at reducing the number of kids who smoke. The plan would provide \$24 million more annually to the Indiana Tobacco and Prevention Cessation Trust Fund (IPTC) for local tobacco cessation and reduction programs. This amount, plus the current budget of \$11 million, would bring IPTC funding to the level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

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- Assure that children are fully immunized by age 2 with \$11 million to expand access to vaccinations.
- Establish a program that offers health insurance to 100,000 or more low-income Hoosiers.

Funded by increase in cigarette tax

The plan would be funded by an increase in the state's cigarette tax - which is currently 55¢ cents per pack and the 36th lowest rate in the country - and a variety of federal funds. The governor suggested an increase of at least 25 cents, but will ask the legislature to determine the precise amount. The number of uninsured who could receive coverage would go up dependent upon the size of the cigarette tax increase. With a 25-cent increase, it is estimated up to 120,000 people could receive coverage. With a 50-cent increase, about 200,000 could receive coverage.

"We've balanced the budget already through spending reductions and no tax increases. That will continue to be our approach," said Daniels. "Any new proceeds should go to promote the health of Hoosiers and for no other purpose."

The governor's three-part health insurance coverage plan would help Hoosiers who least can afford coverage. It would be available to those who earn less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level and who are without employer-sponsored health insurance.

"Every day, Hoosiers all across Indiana are worried about how a health event they are not prepared to deal with financially could turn their lives upside down," said Daniels. "This plan is a start to give many more people protection and peace of mind while fostering more personal responsibility to make good decisions."

An estimated 14.3 percent of Indiana's population, more than 550,000 individuals, currently has no health insurance, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics.

Where the money will come from

To provide coverage to 120,000 Hoosiers, the total cost would be about \$480 million, and would be paid with these funds: \$95 million of cigarette tax proceeds, \$80 million of individual contributions, \$50 million from the Disproportionate Share Hospital Program (DSH) and \$255 million in expected federal funds.

If the cost of cigarettes was raised by 50 cents per pack, coverage could provide to about 200,000 people using \$172 million from cigarette tax revenue; \$132 million from individual contributions, \$50 million DSH and \$446 million in expected federal funds.

If the plan receives approval by the General Assembly, the proposed effective date would be January 1, 2008.

Daniels announced that this plan will be introduced into the Indiana State Senate by Senator Patricia Miller of Indianapolis. She is a member of Old Bethel United Methodist Church.

Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition

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More than 70 United Methodist congregations statewide have already signed a Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition (HF&HF) petition calling for a 50-cent increase in the cigarette tax, full funding of ITPC and support of local ordinances banning smoking from workplaces such as restaurants.

Earlier this year, the North Indiana Conference meeting at Lafayette in June approved the HF&HC resolution but edited out the increase in cigarette taxes.

HF&HC has more than 400 participating congregations across Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith groups and will probably push for a dollar increase in the cigarette tax. The higher the tax, the more lower-income Hoosiers will benefit.

A copy of the Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition Resolution to be signed by your congregation can be found on the Indiana Area UMC Web site at www.inareaumc.org. Click on "Join the Indiana Anti-smoking Campaign."

Leaders of faith communities, both pastors and laity, are invited to a complimentary Show Your Faith for Healthy Kids Luncheon on Wednesday, Jan. 24 beginning at Noon at Christ Church Cathedral on Monument Circle in Indianapolis. Space is limited. For reservations call 317-472-1055.

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Maria Luisa Tishner, ILI Program Director, offers a presentation on the dangers of tobacco to parishioners of Methodist Vida Nueva Church.

Resources

We highly recommend reading *The DeMarco Factor: Transforming Public Will into Political Power* by Michael Pertschuk.

Note that the resources have been included in this Promising Practice to be utilized as examples and adjusted for specific needs:

Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition Smoking Reduction Resolution Form (English version, see page 7; Spanish version, see page 8)

Faith leaders defend anti-smoking agency (article published in *The Indianapolis Star*, see page 9)

Governor introduces plan for a healthier Indiana by raising cigarette tax at least 25 cents a pack (press release, see pages 10-12)

The National Latino Tobacco Control Network (NLTCN) www.latinotobaccocontrol.org is an open information and support system for tobacco control and health disparities advocates and experts who want to become more effective in changing policies and social norms around tobacco control through exchange of information and personal and institutional linkages. NLTCN is a member of the National Tobacco Prevention Networks www.tobaccoopreventionnetworks.org.

This publication was supported by CDC Cooperative Agreement Number U58/DP001515. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.

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