

Engaging Tribes in Conversations about Tobacco Taxes



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Objectives



Learn more about Provision ORS
323.401



Identify methods on how to
engage with your Tribal Leaders



Maintain, strengthen, and expand
relationships with champions in
your tribal community

Raising Taxes on Tobacco

- Taxation is the best way to cut tobacco use.
- Higher taxes increase government revenue.
- Higher taxes help the young and poor.
- Excise taxes are proven to be effective at reducing tobacco use.



Provision ORS 323.401

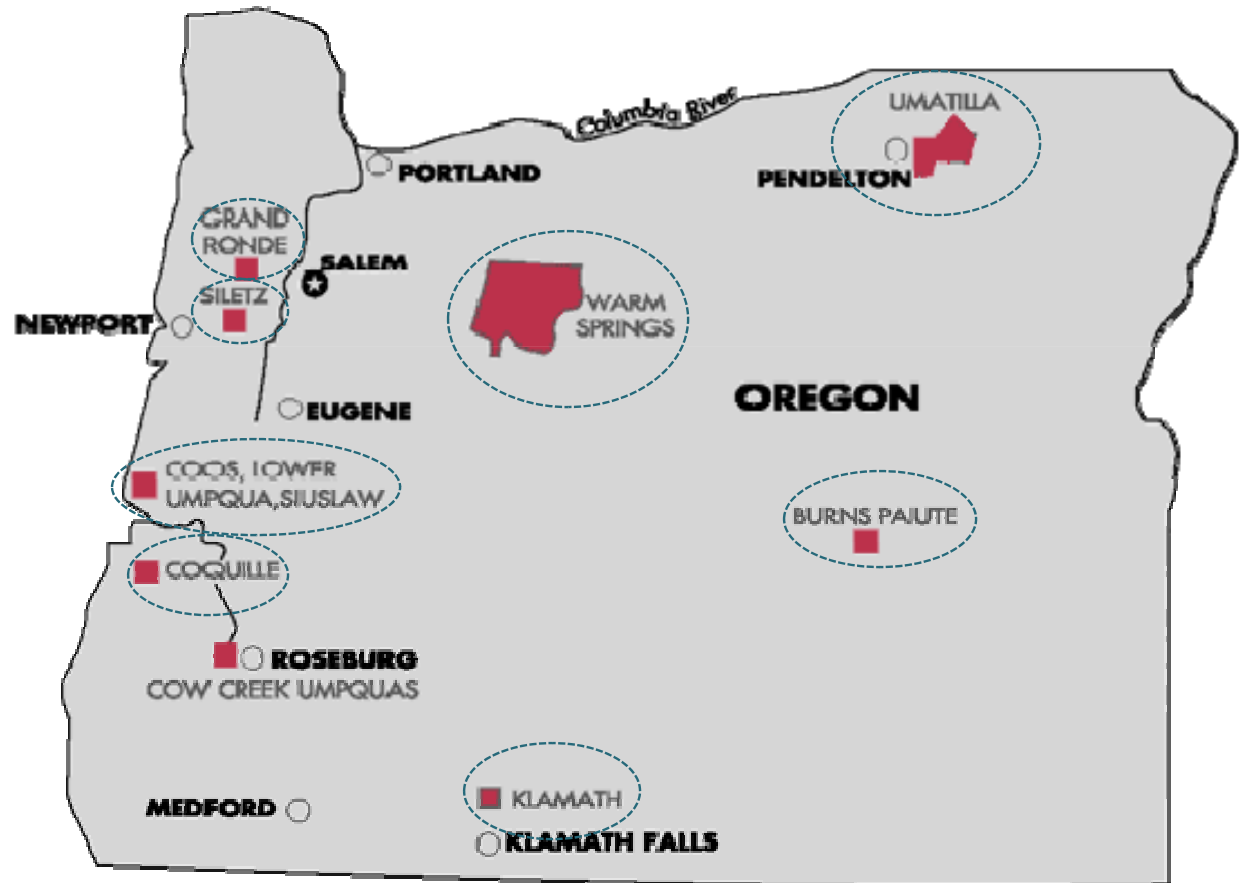


- **Refund agreement with governing body of Indian reservation**
 - appropriation for refunds
- **The Department of Revenue is authorized to enter into a cigarette tax refund agreement with the governing body of any Indian reservation in Oregon.**
 - The agreement may provide for a mutually agreed upon amount as a refund to the governing body of any cigarette tax prepaid on sales of cigarettes to Indians upon the reservation and paid into the State Treasury. This provision is in addition to other laws allowing tax refunds.



The Department of Revenue maintains cigarette tax refund agreements with eight Oregon tribes.

- The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs;
- The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla;
- The Klamath Tribes;
- The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde;
- The Confederated Tribes of Siletz;
- The Coquille Indian Tribe;
- The Burns Paiute; and
- The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw



Provision ORS 323.401

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- Under these agreements, the Tribes agree that the Oregon cigarette tax will be paid on all cigarettes sold by tribally licensed cigarette retail outlets, including sales to tribal members on federal trust lands.
- In turn, the Department agrees to remit tax refunds to the tribes based upon tribal rolls and Native American per capita cigarette consumption rates.

What Can You Do?



- **Tribal Tobacco Prevention Coordinators can connect with Tribal Leaders to:**
 - Understand the impact/benefit of the current cigarette tax agreement between your tribe and the state.
 - Learn about how your tribe is spending its cigarette tax dollars.
 - Investigate how tribes around the country are using their tobacco tax dollars to benefit their tribal communities.
 - Engage Tribal Leadership in conversation about how cigarette tax agreement dollars can be spent to benefit the health of your tribal community.
 - Promote spending of tribal tax dollars on Tribal TPEP and other health programs.

Recruit & Foster Champions



- **Identify:**

- Gaining community support by including a wide variety of stakeholders in your commercial tobacco prevention efforts will help build an effective program that addresses the needs of the tribe.
- Consider identifying key individuals as prospective champions from the

following groups:

- ✦ Tribal Council
- ✦ Elders Council
- ✦ Tribal Media
- ✦ Tribal Businesses
- ✦ Tribal Schools
- ✦ Culture Councils
- ✦ Youth Councils
- ✦ Tribal Clinics
- ✦ Tribal Police/Courts

Recruit & Foster Champions

- **Recruit:**

- Discuss how the Tribal Tobacco Prevention & Education Program (TPEP) will benefit tribal adults, youth, and elders.
- Communicate clearly to individual recruits what they can contribute to the Tribe's commercial tobacco prevention & education efforts.
- Let them know that their participation will help to achieve success!
- Suggest a timeline for individual participation, be it ongoing or discreet opportunities.



Recruit & Foster Champions



- **Foster/Engage:**
 - Establish regular communication about the Tribal TPEP with Tribal Leaders and community members.
 - Engage current and prospective commercial tobacco prevention champions in conversation about the positive impact the program has on tribal youth and adults.
- **Disseminate:**
 - Share the Tribal TPEP success stories and program elements broadly amongst the tribe.
 - Develop a variety of messages tailored to the interest of tribal stakeholder groups.
 - Publicize endorsements from tribal leaders, health officials, business leaders, and other tribal decision-makers.

Strategies

- **Assessment:** Assess community support & political will for commercial tobacco prevention and education, including identifying TPEP Champions from influential tribal leaders and community members.
- Investigate your tribal government structure, including how commercial tobacco tax revenue is budgeted.



Strategies



- **Outreach, Education, and Partnerships: Identify your target audiences to build tribal support for commercial tobacco prevention and tailor messaging to their priorities, challenges, and strengths.**
 - Educate Tribal Leaders and the community about how commercial tobacco prevention and education improves the health and wellness of the tribe.
 - Engage in outreach activities that inform Tribal Leaders and stakeholders about the evidence-based strategy of increasing the price of commercial tobacco products to both reduce youth initiation and to increase quit attempts among adults and youth.

Strategies



- **Media Advocacy: Use internal communication systems, such as tribal newsletters or emails to inform tribal constituents about Tribal TPEP priorities, program elements, and success stories and to recruit potential commercial tobacco prevention champions.**
 - Publicize local TPEP success stories in newsletters, tribal newsletters, and other media outlets.
 - For media-related technical assistance, contact your liaison.

Policy Development & Analysis



- Resources:
 - For an evidence-based guide to help plan and establish effective commercial tobacco control programs, see CDC's "**Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs – 2007**" available on HPCDP Connection website.
 - For tribally-specific resources, visit the Keep It Sacred National Native Network website at www.keepitsacred.org



Pilamayaye (Thank You)



Questions?

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