

Media Announcement



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LUNG ASSOCIATION OFFERS MINI-GRANTS TO BALTIMORE COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

Grants designed to help residents disproportionately affected by tobacco

August 2, 2005 – As part of a grant provided by the Baltimore County Department of Health Cigarette Restitution Fund, the American Lung Association of Maryland is issuing requests for proposals from Baltimore County organizations that service populations that are at high risk for tobacco usage. In addition to funding community programs, the Lung Association will provide expert technical assistance to the funded organizations. This process will ensure that priority populations are included and have ownership in decision-making processes, planning and implementation of culturally specific activities to help prevent tobacco use in their communities.

“According to the Maryland Adult Tobacco Survey (MATS),” says Stephen Peregoy, President & CEO of the American Lung Association of Maryland, “the rate of tobacco use by some populations in Baltimore County is higher than the statewide rate.” Peregoy explained that while tobacco use by youth in the County is comparable to statewide statistics, “the rates of tobacco use by Baltimore County adults and by pregnant women are higher than the state rates. Minorities residing in Baltimore County also have a higher than state average cigarette smoking rate.”

Peregoy said, “The funding we offer provides the opportunity for community organizations to reach high risk groups such as African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans, pregnant women, youth and other medically underserved populations.”

Examples of activities that may be funded through the mini-grant program include, but are not limited to:

- more -

- Identifying and developing ethnic specific and culturally relevant programs focusing on tobacco use prevention for youth
- Increasing the capacity and infrastructure of community based organizations to provide tobacco programming
- Implementing awareness campaigns and programs on secondhand smoke
- Addressing local cultural concerns about youth access to tobacco products, secondhand smoke, or tobacco industry influence in the minority community
- Informing, educating and/or training key community leaders on tobacco control issues relevant to priority target populations.

In order to qualify for a grant, organizations must be located in or provide service to individuals who live, work or attend school in Baltimore County. A bidder's conference is scheduled for August 23 from 1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Baltimore County Health Department, 6401 York Road, Third Floor, Baltimore. For more information on the grant process or the bidder's conference, call Anna Reuter at the American Lung Association of Maryland at 1-888-887-0123 x211 or email her at areuter@marylandlung.org. Deadline for application is Friday, September 2, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.

Beginning our second century, the American Lung Association is the leading organization working to prevent lung disease and promote lung health. Lung disease death rates continue to increase while other leading causes of death have declined.

The American Lung Association funds vital research on the causes of and treatments for lung disease. With the generous support of the public, the American Lung Association is "Improving life, one breath at a time."

For more information about the American Lung Association or to support the work it does, call 1-800-LUNG-USA (1-800-586-4872) or log on to www.lungusa.org.

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