



June 1, 2018

Steve Kane, Chair
Grants Management Advisory Committee
C/O Office of Community Partnerships and Grants
4126 Technology Way, Suite 100
Carson City, NV 89706

Dear Mr. Kane,

The Nevada Primary Care Association (NVPCA) is the state's federally designated primary care association. Our mission is to advocate for, broaden, and strengthen the health center network. We are a non-profit membership organization serving the state's Community Health Centers (CHCs), which are essential providers of health care to uninsured or medically underserved residents, and Medicaid beneficiaries.

NVPCA believes that more can be done on a statewide level to prevent tobacco use and to fund tobacco control programs. The patients served by our members come from communities and groups most likely to use tobacco. In 2016, 95 percent of CHC patients in Nevada had incomes below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, groups that had more than double the rate of everyday smokers (14.2 percent to 16.0 percent) compared to those with higher incomes (6.1 percent) in the 2016 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey.

Nevada's progress in tobacco control has stalled in recent years according to the BRFSS. The share of former smokers was nearly the same in 2016 (24.4 percent) as it was in 2011 (24.6 percent). Following some substantial gains between 2011 and 2012, the share of Nevadans who have never smoked and who are daily smokers have not changed much in the years since. Nevada's CHCs report their efforts to identify and treat tobacco use to the federal government, and in 2016, they screened and referred to treatment 91 percent of all adult patients.

As a member of the Nevada Tobacco Prevention Coalition, NVPCA joins with our coalition partners in urging the Grants Management Advisory Committee to request that more of the resources from the Master Settlement Agreement be allocated to the Fund for a Healthy Nevada for tobacco control.

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Bowen
Executive Director