

# Young Lungs at Play Toolkit



## How to Use this Young Lungs at Play Toolkit

This comprehensive toolkit includes tools, templates and information on implementing effective policies and procedures to promote tobacco free parks and recreational areas, designed for community service organizations promoting Young Lungs at Play to municipalities, school districts and sports and recreation organizations. It will assist you in helping municipalities and sports and recreation commissions develop and enact local policies, resolutions or ordinances to ensure that all forms of tobacco use are prohibited where children play.

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## Steps for Young Lungs at Play

**YES:** Garner participation in *Young Lungs at Play* from municipalities, recreation and youth organizations or school districts. Engage youth and school, community or recreation leaders to champion the program.

**LEARN:** Educate community leaders and decision makers about the facts. Provide resources, information and support.

**ACTION:** Implement 100% tobacco free parks and playgrounds policy and request FREE *Young Lungs at Play!* signs. Communities and organizations that meet program criteria are eligible for signs.

**PROMOTE:** Inform municipal staff and the community. Publish announcement in local media.

# Young Lungs at Play

# Letter #1

Send with YLAP Program Description & Fact Sheet.  
[Insert your organization letterhead and contact information here.]

DATE

Name

ADDRESS

City, State Zip

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,



[NAME OF YOUR PROGRAM HERE] invites all \_\_\_\_\_ County municipalities to join us in eliminating children’s exposure to secondhand smoke at local public parks and playgrounds by participating in **Young Lungs at Play**, a no-cost tobacco-free parks and playgrounds program supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

**Young Lungs at Play** supports community efforts to protect the environment and the health of all residents, particularly our youth.

It’s easy to participate in **Young Lungs at Play**. The first step is to invite the [name of city, municipality or township] to adopt an ordinance or resolution that prohibits the use of tobacco products, [including e-cigarettes, or vaping](#), in parks, playgrounds or where children play. [Name of your organization] will support each community in its efforts to create tobacco-free policies by providing **FREE Young Lungs at Play** signs to be posted in designated tobacco free areas. The signs are attractive, self-enforcing and promote a positive tobacco free message.

This policy initiative helps to limit exposure to dangerous secondhand smoke and unattractive tobacco litter.

For your review, I have enclosed a **Young Lungs at Play** program description, fact sheet, and a sample ordinance. The *Young Lungs at Play* sign will look like the image attached here. You will be provided with the number of signs you need for your community’s playgrounds and parks. We will also be happy to attend meetings to provide more information about this program and can assist with publicity and promotion.

For more information about **Young Lungs at Play**, please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_. I look forward to working with you on this important public health initiative.

Sincerely,

Your name and title

Enclosures: *Young Lungs at Play* Program Description

# Young Lungs at Play

# Letter #2

Send to municipalities that didn't respond to the first invitation. Insert your letterhead here.

DATE

Name

Address

City, State Zip

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

[Name of Your Organization] invites all \_\_\_\_\_ County municipalities to eliminate children's exposure to secondhand smoke, including vaping, at local public parks and playgrounds.



**Young Lungs at Play** is a no-cost tobacco-free parks and playgrounds program offered across Pennsylvania to support community efforts to improve the environment and protect the health of all residents.

It's easy to participate in **Young Lungs at Play!** The first step is for [name of city, municipality or township] to adopt an ordinance or resolution that prohibits tobacco use, [including e-cigarettes, or vaping](#), in parks, playgrounds or recreational fields where children play.

FREE **Young Lungs at Play** signs will be provided to be post in designated tobacco free areas. The signs are attractive, self-enforcing and promote a positive tobacco free message.

Add a personal note here about the county/borough (refer to the *Young Lungs at Play Honor Roll*). Ex: In Luzerne County, ten municipalities passed tobacco-free resolutions or ordinances covering more than 50 different parks and playgrounds in the county. Join Edwardsville, Forty-Fort, Hazleton City, etc. and implement **Young Lungs at Play** to protect our county's children! This policy initiative helps to limit exposure to dangerous secondhand smoke and unattractive tobacco litter.

I have enclosed a **Young Lungs at Play** program description and sample policy. The **Young Lungs at Play No Smoking, No Vaping** sign appears above. You will be provided with the number of signs you need for your community's playgrounds and parks. We will also attend meetings to provide more information about this program and can assist with publicity and promotion.

For more information about **Young Lungs at Play**, please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_. I look forward to working with you on this important public health initiative.

Sincerely,

Your name and organization, email

# Letter #3: To expand tobacco-free policy

Date

Dear Mayor & Members of City Council:

The members of *[Name of Your Organization]* want to thank City Council for its efforts to improve the health of all residents, especially our children, by making all of the city's playgrounds tobacco free. We are proud of the leadership that *[Name of City]* has shown on this issue. In *[Month and Year]*, the city becomes one of the first communities in \_\_\_\_\_ County to join Young Lungs At Play; a statewide initiative to reduce tobacco use and exposure in outdoor, public places; especially places where children visit and play, by passing tobacco-free ordinances.

*[Name of City]* current ordinance prohibits the possession and use of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes or vaping, by any individual in the city's playgrounds. **We are here today to ask that you consider expanding the current ordinance to include all city park property.**

Tobacco-free parks and playgrounds are important! Tobacco use in public areas where children and adults are watching and engaging in outdoor recreation is detrimental to their health, pollutes the environment and increases maintenance costs.

Secondhand smoke contains a complex mixture of over 200 poisons, including more than 43 chemicals that are known cancer-causing agents. The Environmental Protection Agency classifies secondhand smoke as a "Group A" carcinogen, meaning that there is no safe level of exposure. Smoking is not a legal or constitutional right and communities across the United States are protecting the health of their citizens and the environment by implementing outdoor tobacco-free policies.

Please do not hesitate to call upon us to assist in this effort. Attached you will find more information about the importance of tobacco-free public places and the impact tobacco has on health and the environment.

Thank you in advance for taking action to make all our city's parks healthy places to play and enjoy for everyone.

Sincerely,

*Your name and title*

Enclosure: Young Lungs at Play Program

Description



# Letter #4 to school districts

Insert your agency header here.

Date

Name

Address

City, State

Zip



Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_ County school districts are invited to join us in eliminating children's exposure to secondhand smoke at local public parks and playgrounds by participating in Young Lungs at Play, an evidence-based, statewide program adopted from successful initiatives in Rockland County, New York and Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Young Lungs at Play is a no-cost tobacco-free parks and playgrounds initiative supported through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Young Lungs at Play supports community efforts to protect the environment and the health of youth and all residents, including \_\_\_\_\_ County residents.

It's easy to participate in Young Lungs at Play! First, adopt a \_\_\_\_\_ School District policy or ordinance that prohibits the use of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, or vaping, products, at playgrounds or recreational fields where children play.

We will support your school district in its efforts to create a tobacco-free policy and provide you with attractive, self-enforcing Young Lungs at Play signs to be posted in designated tobacco free areas.

This policy initiative can limit exposure to dangerous secondhand smoke and tobacco litter. Substantial spin-off effects include increased normalization of non-smoking behavior, decreased litter in playgrounds and outdoor recreation areas and non-smokers promoting clean outdoor air.

For your review, I have enclosed a Young Lungs at Play program description, fact sheet, and a sample ordinance. The Young Lungs at Play sign appears above. We will also be happy to attend meetings to provide more information about this program and can assist with publicity and promotion.

For more information about Young Lungs at Play, please contact me at ----- . I look forward to working with you on this important public health initiative.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

# Young Lungs at Play Program Description



## Prevent Children's Exposure to Secondhand Smoke

Municipalities, school districts, youth sports organizations and other groups are invited to join the Pennsylvania Department of Health and partnering agencies in eliminating children's exposure to secondhand smoke at public parks and playgrounds. Policy initiatives are key strategies in influencing community norms and effective ways to limit exposure to the dangers of secondhand smoke. This initiative protects the environment and protects the health of all. We will support you as you work to create tobacco-free parks and playgrounds.

### Join Young Lungs at Play in 3 Easy Steps:

1. **Implement** a local 100% tobacco free ordinance, policy or resolution in public areas where children play to help accomplish this. Identify the specific areas within the park or playground being covered and include:
  - o a statement that all forms of tobacco use and electronic smoking devices are prohibited;
  - o an enforcement plan; and
  - o a communications plan for informing the public
2. **Apply** to participate in Young Lungs at Play
3. **Install** Young Lungs at Play signs at designated areas.

### Young Lungs at Play Resources

- Local staff or volunteers may attend your meetings and provide Young Lungs at Play information: sample ordinances, policies, or resolutions; and
- Sample press releases to notify the general community and media.

### Young Lungs at Play Signs

You will be provided with no-cost standard pre-imprinted 12"x 18" metal signs to place in your tobacco-free area(s) after implementing a tobacco free parks policy. You will also be placed on the Pennsylvania Young Lungs at Play Honor Roll, recognizing your efforts in becoming a tobacco free community!

For more information about Young Lungs at Play, visit the [PA Dept. of Health website](#) or contact:

# Young Lungs at Play

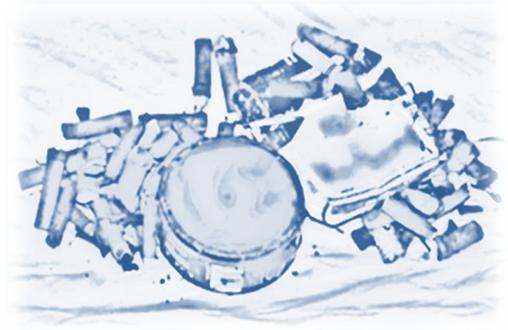
# Fact Sheet

## **Tobacco-Free Parks and Playgrounds Are Important**

Many Pennsylvania communities have instituted outdoor tobacco-free ordinances at parks, playgrounds, trails and city green spaces as a way to protect both children and the environment.

## **Tobacco-Free Parks are Clean Parks**

Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world. Discarded cigarettes and other forms of tobacco are toxic, hazardous to the environment and costly to cleanup. Small children and animals are at risk of swallowing, choking, or burning themselves with discarded butts and poisoning themselves with the drug nicotine. Tobacco-free parks provide children with clean and healthy places to play.



## **Children are hurt by secondhand smoke!**

Exposure to secondhand smoke has been estimated to result in at least 38,000 annual deaths in the United States and over one million illnesses in children (National Cancer Institute )

## **Children exposed to secondhand smoke are inhaling many of the same cancer-causing substances as smokers.**

Because their bodies are still growing, infants and young children are especially vulnerable to health risks from secondhand smoke.

Even brief exposures can be harmful. The only way to fully protect yourself and your loved ones from the dangers of secondhand smoke is through 100% smoke-free environments <sup>1</sup>

## **e-cigarettes**

The aerosol from e-cigarettes is not harmless. It can contain cancer-causing chemicals, heavy metals like nickel, tin, and lead, among other things. E-cigarettes are not safe for children, teens, young adults, pregnant adults, or people who do not already use tobacco.

*(<sup>1</sup>The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General June 27, 2006).*

## Children Imitate Adult Behaviors

How do children learn to walk? To talk? To play sports? From adults! Every year in Pennsylvania, nearly 3,700 children under the age of 18 will become new daily smokers (*Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, 2021*). When children see adults smoking in family-friendly places such as parks and playgrounds, they see the behavior as acceptable. Parks are about clean air, natural beauty and engaging in healthy activities. Smoking just doesn't fit in.

## Pennsylvanians Support Tobacco-Free Outdoor Areas

Most Pennsylvanians, about 82%, DO NOT SMOKE (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2019). Tobacco-free policies that restrict tobacco use where children play help to protect the health of all community members.

Tobacco-free policies are public park policies similar to those prohibiting alcohol use or littering in public parks and are largely self-enforcing.



## Post adequate signage

Educate the community about the tobacco-free policy and allow individuals to handle tobacco use in the same manner as an alcohol or litter complaint that may occur at these facilities.

## Prevent children's exposure to secondhand smoke at outdoor public play places.

Support a tobacco-free ordinance in your city! Make a difference in the health and welfare of all community members.

To request **Young Lungs at Play** signs, or for a sample ordinance, please contact:



# Young Lungs at Play

# Policy Checklist

Date of Policy Review	
Name of Municipality/Organization	
Address	
County	

1. What type of policy statement was enacted and was a copy obtained?
  - a. Ordinance
  - b. Resolution
  - c. Policy
2. Does the Policy (ordinance/resolution/policy):
  - a. Include a statement that all forms of tobacco use are prohibited?
  - b. Identify the parks or areas within parks designated tobacco-free?
3. How many parks and/or locations are covered by the policy?
4. How many YLAP signs are requested?
5. Does the policy include an **enforcement plan** that states how violations will be addressed?
6. Does the policy include a **communications plan** for informing the public?

Service provider made request for municipality/organization to strengthen policy on \_\_\_\_\_.

Date of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Final revision/date: \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

This municipality/organization is recommended to be added to the PA Honor Roll.

Date of recommendation \_\_\_\_\_.

Name of Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_.



# Sample Ordinance

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ORDINANCE NUMBER \_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

AN ORDINANCE OF (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY), COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ AND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, PROHIBITING THE USE OF TOBACCO IN RECREATIONAL AREAS, PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF:

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THE MUNICIPALITY'S PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WILL SERVE TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS OF (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY.)

**WHEREAS**, the *(Municipal Council)* acknowledges that second hand tobacco smoke poses a threat to the health, safety and welfare of adults and minor children; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Surgeon General has determined that there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, secondhand tobacco smoke is responsible for over 50,000 deaths among nonsmokers each year; and

**WHEREAS**, tobacco kills more Americans each year than alcohol, cocaine, heroin, homicide, and suicide, accidents, fire and AIDS combined; and

**WHEREAS**, 80% of smokers started smoking before the age of 18, and the average initiation age is 12 years old; and

**WHEREAS**, the (Municipal) Council desires to discourage tobacco use and promote the public health by making Municipality owned parks, playgrounds and recreational fields "tobacco free zones."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the (Municipal Council of \_\_\_\_\_) and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the authority of the same as follows:

**Section 1: DESIGNATED TOBACCO-FREE AREAS:** That the areas of parks and playgrounds where

children are present including *(list areas specific to your community: picnic areas, sports and athletic fields, concert venues, etc.)* in the Municipality of \_\_\_\_\_ be designated tobacco-free and the use of any tobacco product\* **or electronic cigarette**, in any form, shall be prohibited hereafter.

**Section 2: APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE** will be posted delineating the tobacco-free areas.

**Section 3: ENFORCEMENT:** *Please insert the specific statement or penalty (ies) for violation of this Ordinance*

Council hereby authorizes its elected and appointed officials to take whatever steps are necessary for full participation in and compliance with the Young Lungs at Play Program and/or other such programs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**Section 4: THE COMMUNITY SHALL BE NOTIFIED OF THIS ORDINANCE.**

# Sample Ordinance

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**\*"TOBACCO PRODUCT" INCLUDES:**

- (a) Any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff<sup>1</sup>; and
- (b) **Any electronic device that delivers nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to an electronic cigarette, cigar, pipe, or hookah.**
- (c) Notwithstanding any provision of subsections (a) and (b) to the contrary, "tobacco product" includes any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, whether or not sold separately. "Tobacco product" does not include any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product or for other therapeutic purposes where such product is marketed and sold for such an approved purpose.

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<sup>1</sup> This list of products is subject to adjustment to conform to terms used in specific state or local laws.

# Sample Policy

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City/Township/Borough/Municipality/ Organization of \_\_\_\_\_

## **GUIDELINE STATEMENT**

The \_\_\_\_\_ City/Township/Borough/Municipality/ Organization Parks and Recreation Tobacco-Free Policy is designed to protect the health welfare and safety of our park patrons.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The City/Township/Borough/Municipality of \_\_\_\_\_ is committed to providing a high quality of living for all residents. Therefore, we believe that:

1. Tobacco products\* used in proximity of children, youth, and adults engaging in or watching recreational activities are unhealthy and detrimental to the health of others.
2. Tobacco products\* consumed in public spaces are often discarded on the ground, thus posing a risk of ingestion to toddlers and causing a litter problem.
3. As parents, leaders, coaches and officials, we are thought of as role models, and the use of tobacco products\* around youth has a negative effect on their lifestyle choices.

## **TOBACCO FREE FACILITIES**

The City/Township/Borough/Municipality of \_\_\_\_\_ does not allow the use of **tobacco products\*, including electronic cigarettes**, on City/Township/Borough/Municipality owned park land, park facilities, open space or joint City/Township/Borough/Municipality school district properties.

## **COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES**

The emphasis on enforcing the Tobacco-Free Park policy is through voluntary compliance:

1. Appropriate town owned park land, park facilities, open space or joint town/school district properties will post *Young Lungs at Play* signage.
2. City/Township/Borough/Municipality/Organization staff will meet with organizations and/or leaders or coaches to discuss the policy and to distribute flyers with the "tobacco-free" regulations.
3. City/Township/Borough/Municipality staff will make periodic observations of activity sites to monitor compliance and help to promote awareness of the tobacco-free policy.

Policy Adoption Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor/Council/Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_  
Seal

Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

# Sample Policy

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\*"Tobacco product" means:

(a) Any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff<sup>1</sup>; and

(b) Any electronic device that delivers nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to an electronic cigarette, cigar, pipe, or hookah.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of subsections (a) and (b) to the contrary, "tobacco product" includes any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, whether or not sold separately. "Tobacco product" does not include any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product or for other therapeutic purposes where such product is marketed and sold for such an approved purpose.

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<sup>1</sup> This list of products is subject to adjustment to conform to terms used in specific state or local laws.

# Sample Resolution – Tobacco Free Parks

**THE (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY) AGREES TO THE ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION TO CREATE TOBACCO-FREE AREAS AT LOCAL PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS.**

**WHEREAS**, in Pennsylvania, more than 858,000 young people are exposed to tobacco smoke pollution every day and the US Surgeon General has stated that there is NO SAFE LEVEL OF EXPOSURE, whether indoors or outdoors, and that children’s exposure to secondhand smoke causes increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome, lower respiratory infections, middle ear diseases, more severe asthma, respiratory symptoms and slowed lung growth and is responsible for the premature deaths of over 430,000 Americans each year from lung cancer, heart disease, respiratory illness and other diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, secondhand smoke is responsible for over 50,000 deaths among nonsmokers each year; and

**WHEREAS**, tobacco kills more Americans each year than alcohol, cocaine, heroin, homicide, and suicide, accidents, fire and AIDS combined; and

**WHEREAS**, 80% of smokers started smoking before the age of 18, and the average initiation age is 12 years old; and

**WHEREAS**, every day in Pennsylvania, an estimated 3,700 young people under the age of 18 try their first cigarette and one-third of these children will die prematurely from tobacco related illnesses; and

**WHEREAS**, to help role model non-smoking behavior to children and youth; to provide children, youth and their families with a safe, smoke-free environment;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Council of the *(Municipality)*, County of \_\_\_\_\_, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as follows:

- That the areas of *(name of parks and playgrounds)* within the *(Municipality)* where children are present shall be designated as tobacco-free and the use of any tobacco product\* **or electronic cigarette**, in any form, shall be prohibited hereafter;
- Appropriate signage shall be posted to designate said tobacco-free areas;
- The residents of *(Municipality)* shall be notified of this Resolution and the designation of the tobacco-free zones as stated herein;
- Any person in violation of this Resolution shall be: (identify action to be taken or penalty to be imposed); and
- Council hereby authorizes its elected and appointed officials to make periodic observations of tobacco-free areas to monitor compliance and promote awareness of this Resolution.

# Sample Resolution – Tobacco Free Parks

## **\*“TOBACCO PRODUCT” INCLUDES:**

- (a) Any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff<sup>1</sup>; and
- (b) **Any electronic device that delivers nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to an electronic cigarette, cigar, pipe, or hookah.**
- (c) Notwithstanding any provision of subsections (a) and (b) to the contrary, “tobacco product” includes any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, whether or not sold separately. “Tobacco product” does not include any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product or for other therapeutic purposes where such product is marketed and sold for such an approved purpose.

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<sup>1</sup> This list of products is subject to adjustment to conform to terms used in specific state or local laws.

# Young Lungs at Play

# Order Form



**Date:**

**Name:** (Municipality or Organization)

**Address:** (Municipality or Organization)

**Zip** (include all zip codes where signs will be placed):

County

Type of policy enacted:

- Ordinance      Date of Ordinance:
- Resolution      Date of Resolution:
- Policy      Date of Policy:

(attach a copy of the policy)

How many parks, playgrounds or rec areas will be covered by this policy?

**# Parks and Playgrounds:**

List **all** recreational areas or playgrounds where signs will be posted:  
(Attach separate sheet if necessary.)

**Names of parks/recreation areas:**

Contact Person:

Phone:

E-mail:

**# Young Lungs at Play! signs requested:**

**# English signs:  
# Spanish signs:**

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:  
[RA-YLAP@pa.gov](mailto:RA-YLAP@pa.gov) Or [Regional Primary Contractor for your County.](#)

# MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

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## \_\_\_\_\_ County Kicks Off Smoke and Vape-Free Playgrounds Initiative

[Name of City or County, Pa]. – Visiting your local playground or recreational field may soon be a more enjoyable experience without cigarette butts littering the ground or the smell of tobacco smoke in the air. *Young Lungs at Play*, an initiative promoting smoke and vape-free public parks and playgrounds for young people.

*Young Lungs at Play* aims to eliminate children's exposure to secondhand smoke and vapors produced by electronic smoking devices at local public parks, playgrounds and playing fields by educating community service organizations, municipalities, school districts and county government agencies. (Organization) works in (xxx) counties in Pennsylvania to coordinate tobacco-free parks and playgrounds through *Young Lungs at Play*. The program also provides no-cost weather resistant *Young Lungs at Play* signs to be posted in those recreation areas.

"This is important for our community" said [NAME OF EDUCATOR]. There are more than 7,000 chemicals in tobacco smoke, including hundreds of chemicals that are toxic and about 70 that can cause cancer. Secondhand smoke exposure also causes an estimated one million illnesses in children each year." The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classifies tobacco smoke as a Class A carcinogen and the Surgeon General reports that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, a pollutant that causes serious illness in adults and children.<sup>1</sup> Secondhand smoke exposure is a social justice issue since there is a higher likelihood of exposure for children, youth, young adults, racial/ethnic minorities, tenants in multi-unit housing, blue collar workers, and employees in the hospitality industry (bars, restaurants, casinos, etc.)<sup>2</sup> Children are at particular risk for asthma, respiratory infections and cardiovascular disease when exposed to tobacco smoke.

Outdoor tobacco use has an environmental impact as well. Cigarettes butts are one of the most littered items in the world. Participating in *Young Lungs at Play* is an opportunity for organizations to promote the health of their community. Young people seeking to become engaged in community service learning activities, such as completing high school projects or earning Eagle Scout leadership awards are encouraged to promote *Young Lungs at Play*.

For more information about participating in *Young Lungs at Play*, contact (organization) at (website/email address). *Young Lungs at Play* is supported by (organization) and funded through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General. <sup>2</sup><https://no-smoke.org/smokefree-threats/secondhand-smoke/>

# PRESS RELEASE

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## INSERT YOUR ORGANIZATION AND ADDRESS HERE

For more information, contact:  
*Name and Telephone Number*

### For Immediate Release

On or before date \_\_\_\_\_

## CITY/BOROUGH OF \_\_\_\_\_ JOINS YOUNG LUNGS AT PLAY

*Name of City, Pa: Name of Your Organization* \_\_\_\_\_ County is proud to welcome *Name of City* to the growing list of \_\_\_\_\_ County communities who have joined the *Young Lungs at Play* program to make public parks, playing fields and playgrounds tobacco and vape- free.

A kick-off event will be held at (*Time, Date and Location of Kickoff Event*).

*Name of Your Organization* invites all \_\_\_\_\_ County cities, municipalities, school districts and county government to join *Name of City* in eliminating children's exposure to secondhand smoke at local public parks, playgrounds and playing fields by participating in *Young Lungs at Play*, a no cost tobacco-free parks and playgrounds program that has been proven successful in other parts of Pennsylvania and the country. This program will help protect the environment and the health of all \_\_\_\_\_ County residents. The program assists municipalities to designate parks, playgrounds and recreation fields tobacco-free, including the use of e-cigarettes, or vaping. E-cigarettes are sometimes called "e-cigs," "vapes," "e-hookahs," "vape pens" or "electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)." Some look like regular cigarettes, cigars, or pipes. Some look like USB flash drives, pens, and other everyday items. Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development, that continues into the mid-20s.

*Name of Your Organization* then provides the municipality with weather resistant *Young Lungs at Play* signs that can be posted in those tobacco-free public areas.

For more information about *Young Lungs at Play*, contact *Name of Organization* \_\_\_\_\_  
County at *(telephone number and e-mail address.)* or visit <insert web link>. This program is  
supported by \_\_\_\_\_ and funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

# # #

Photograph included in Press Release /

Insert Picture Here

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*Name of Your Organization members display Young Lungs at Play signs that will be posted at  
location of parks, playgrounds or recreational fields in Name of City on (date of event.) Young Lungs  
at Play is an initiative that promotes tobacco-free public parks and playgrounds.*

*Pictured (l-r) front row: Names of individuals pictured*

*Back row: names of individuals pictured.*

# Photo Release Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I give my permission to have my image/voice and my child's image/voice used by (organization) for educational purposes. I understand that my image/voice may be used in a presentation to help illustrate and explain the educational programs of (organization).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_



# Photo Release Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I give my permission to have my image/voice and my child's image/voice used by (organization ) for educational purposes. I understand that my image/voice may be used in a presentation to help illustrate and explain the educational programs of (organization).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_



Email response to potential YLAP participant from Regional Primary Contractor/Service Provider:

Hello \_\_\_\_\_,



Thank you for reaching out to us about the Young Lungs at Play program and possibilities for \_\_\_\_\_! It's wonderful that you interested in eliminating secondhand smoke where children play through the Young Lungs at Play program.

Each year in Pennsylvania, 5,100 kids under 18 become new daily smokers. Young Lungs at Play aims to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke, increase the normalization of non-smoking behaviors, decrease litter in parks, and prevent tobacco use among youth. The program promotes environmental change by establishing tobacco-free parks and playgrounds and educating municipal leaders on the risks of second-hand smoke and tobacco litter.

Young Lungs at Play, a Pennsylvania Department of Health program, is available across Pennsylvania's 67 counties. Providers work with municipal leaders to develop tobacco free park policies. Eligible communities and organizations receive signs to display in tobacco-free areas that feature the tobacco quit line (see attached copy of the current sign).

You may view the [Pennsylvania website](#) and [Honor Roll](#) to see a list of parks in your area that have gone tobacco free.

PA Department of Health partners covering \_\_\_\_\_ County will be able to help you create tobacco free areas and join Young Lungs at Play. The program offers free signs once the community has a tobacco free policy in place. We suggest that all policies include electronic cigarettes, so that vaping is not allowed as well. They can even help you with a media around it!

If you need anything else, please feel free to contact me.