



# Smoke-Free News

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## New opportunities for our coalition

There has been concern in recent months that Citizens for a Smoke-free Goodhue County would lose the participation of a major partner, Goodhue County Public Health Service (PHS). Over the last four years, PHS has provided support in the form of staff time and funding for some of our activities. This support has been paid for by a grant that PHS

received from ClearWay Minnesota for work on tobacco-related issues. The grant ends on June 28, 2009 and cannot be renewed.

We were very pleased to learn that PHS has been awarded a new grant for tobacco control activities (*see story below*). The grant will allow PHS to continue to partner with our coalition.

Your help is still needed to defend Minnesota's smoke-free law. The opponents of smoke-free air have not given up.

There will also be new opportunities for all of us to play a role in reducing the harm that tobacco causes to the health of our communities.

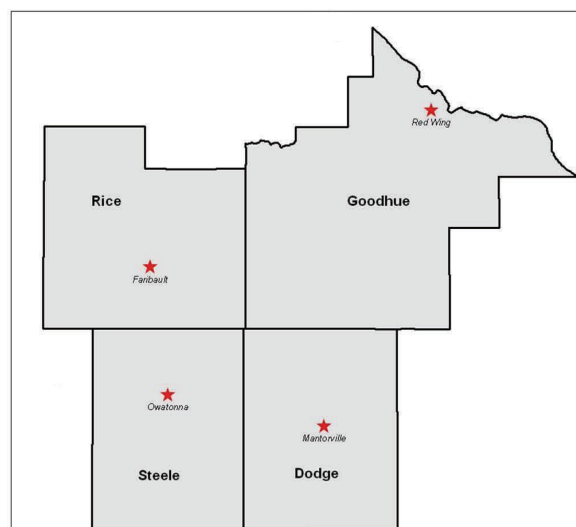
## Regional partnership announced

The Four Corners Partnership to Reduce the Harm Caused by Tobacco will begin work in July. The partnership is made up of the public health departments in Goodhue, Dodge, Rice and Steele counties. Funding for the project comes from a grant from ClearWay Minnesota. "In this difficult time of budget cuts we were very fortunate to receive this grant," said Goodhue County Public Health Service Director Karen Main. "It allows us to share the experience the Goodhue County coalition has gained with our neighbors."

Staff from each of the four public health departments will work closely with local coalitions of concerned citizens in each county. The project will focus on:

- Defending Minnesota's smoke-free law from attempts to weaken it.

- Advocating for policies that would increase the price of tobacco (and reduce tobacco use).
- Raising the awareness of local retailers about the impact that tobacco advertising in and around their stores has on the health of the community.
- Promoting smoke-free campus policies for the region's post-secondary schools.
- Educating the public about the dangers of tobacco use and secondhand smoke.
- Promoting tobacco cessation services that are available



**Map of the Four Corners Partnership to Reduce the Harm Caused by Tobacco.**

**Public Health Departments from each of the four counties to work closely with local coalitions of concerned citizens.**

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## South Dakota update

Governor Mike Rounds signed legislation to eliminate smoking in nearly all restaurants and bars in South Dakota effective July 1, 2009. Unfortunately, a group of bar owners and others not happy with the new law launched a petition drive to put the law on the November 2010 ballot. This would delay the start of the law until after the election.

As of June 17, the petition organizers claim to have more than enough signatures to place the law on the ballot. They have to turn in 16,776 valid petition signatures by June 29.

Advocates of smoke-free workplaces in South Dakota say the petition organizers are wasting their time and that the law will be overwhelmingly approved by the voters.

## FDA to regulate tobacco products

Congress has passed sweeping new legislation, the Family Smoking Prevention and Control Act, that will give the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority to regulate tobacco products. President Obama expressed his strong support for this legislation and plans to sign it on June 22, 2009.

The FDA regulation of tobacco products and their marketing will be funded by a new fee imposed on all tobacco product manufacturers.

For the first time ever, tobacco companies will be required to disclose all of the tobacco ingredients and other additives in their products. The health warnings on tobacco products will be strengthened. Tobacco marketing in locations or publications accessible to or popular with minors will be subject to strong new regulation.

Visit [www.smokefreegc.org](http://www.smokefreegc.org) for more details and links to expert analysis of this historic legislation.

## Wisconsin update

On May 18, 2009, Governor Jim Doyle signed the "2009 Wisconsin Act 12" into law. This legislation will make all enclosed workplaces and public places in Wisconsin smoke-free.

Don't rush across the bridge yet to enjoy the smoke-free air at your favorite Wisconsin bar or restaurant - the new law does not start until July 5, 2010.

The delayed start was part of a compromise worked out with the Tavern League of Wisconsin. This organization was a powerful foe of earlier attempts to make Wisconsin smoke-free.

Once the new law takes effect, there will be very few places where indoor smoking will still be permitted.