

Save Thousands of Dollars a Year

Partner with the Collier County Health Department and Make Your Business Smoke-free.

Collier: If you could have a safer, healthier, cleaner, and more productive workplace- and not cost you a dime, would you? According to the Centers for Disease Control, there is a \$3,383 price tag on each employee that smokes. That is, \$1,760 in lost productivity, and \$1,623 on excess medical expenses. At the start of this New Year, the Collier County Health Department would like to recognize and congratulate David Lawrence Center. Two years ago, David Lawrence Center made a commitment to implement a tobacco-free campus policy and protect their employees, patients, and visitors from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

“As a healthcare provider and an addiction treatment facility, it was just the right thing to do for our employees and patients” said Christine Holmes, Director of Substance Abuse and Specialty Services at David Lawrence Center. “Smoking and tobacco use is a health risk and an addiction. We wanted to improve the overall wellness of our employees and patients and support them in their efforts to live a healthier life. With careful planning and our partnership with the Collier County Health Department to provide smoking cessation assistance to patients, our staff and clients really embraced our new addiction free campus movement. If a substance abuse treatment facility can do it, your business can too.”

The Collier County Health Department encourages businesses and agencies to partner with the Tobacco Control Program to implement tobacco-free policies as well as receive free smoking cessation resources.

Tobacco-free campus policies protect people from secondhand smoke, reduce cigarette butt litter and pollution, and give smokers another reason to quit. Instituting a tobacco-free campus policy, as well as linking smokers with cessation resources reduces the amount of cigarettes smoked per day, and increases the likelihood of a successful quit attempt.

According to The American Productivity Audit, a national survey of over 29,000 workers, tobacco use was a leading cause of worker lost production time—greater than alcohol abuse or family emergencies. Quitting smoking, or even just cutting back, improves a worker’s productivity.

Partner with the Collier County Health Department to learn more about implementing tobacco-free policies on your campus. For assistance, call Rachel Kleist at 252-6852.

Free Quit Resources

Tobacco Free Florida offers a number of free and convenient resources to help Floridians quit using tobacco.

- Phone: Call the Florida Quitline at 1-877-U-CAN-NOW to speak with a Quit Coach who will help you assess your addiction and help you create a personalized quit plan.
- Online: Enroll in the Web Coach®, which will help you create your own web-based quit plan that’s right for you, visit <https://www.quitnow.net/florida>.
- In-person: Sign up for Quit Smoking Now group classes at your local Area Health Education Center (AHEC) by calling 1-877-819-2357.

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