

Congratulate & Educate Program

The MN Department of Human Services (DHS) Behavioral Health Division, in partnership with the Association for Nonsmokers-MN (ANSR), is once again offering an educational tobacco compliance check opportunity, Congratulate and Educate. This is an opportunity to conduct one-on-one education on local, state, and federal laws around youth access with your tobacco retailers. The goal is to educate retailers about the important role they play in keeping young people commercial tobacco-free.

Requirements:

- This activity **must** supplement/**not** replace, the state minimum of one required enforcement check annually;
- These compliance checks are for educational purposes only. No penalties to the clerk or business owner are permitted; and
- A person between the ages of 17-20 must be used to conduct these compliance checks.

Timeline: All educational compliance checks need to be completed before June 30, 2026. There are no exceptions; this is based on the state budget calendar.

Eligible Departments: All local licensing agencies such as public health and law enforcement departments.

Reimbursement: \$50 per vendor/per educational compliance check will be paid to the department. All educational materials for the vendors including a certificate will be provided. Funding is based on a first come first serve basis.

How do I apply? No grant proposal is necessary. The information listed below is needed. DHS will use the information to send you a contract, including all supporting materials. Please fill out [this form](#).

Questions: Contact me at katie@ansrmn.org (651-646-3005) or Vicki Berg, DHS Team Lead/MN FDA Tobacco Program at vicki.berg@state.mn.us (651-431-2459). I am more than happy to talk through how you might implement this in your community!

Thank you for all you do in creating a healthy & safe community for all!

Note: Compliance checks Can Not be done on MDH funding. This is a different funding opportunity