

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 their important role 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, 2025. 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 with the following information:**

- Department Name:
- Contact Person:
- Mailing Address:
- Email Address:
- Phone Number:
- MN SWIFT Vendor/ Supplier ID Number. This is how your department will be reimbursed:
- Number of licensed tobacco retailers: The number of inspections you plan to do. You may not go over this number, and if you go significantly under, it takes resources away from other communities.
- Last date of enforcement tobacco checks completed:
- How you would like to receive your supporting materials: Electronically or USPS mailed to you.
- Authorized department contract signer name, title, and email.

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 welcome the opportunity to talk about how you might implement this in your community.

Thank you for all you do to create a thriving community for all!

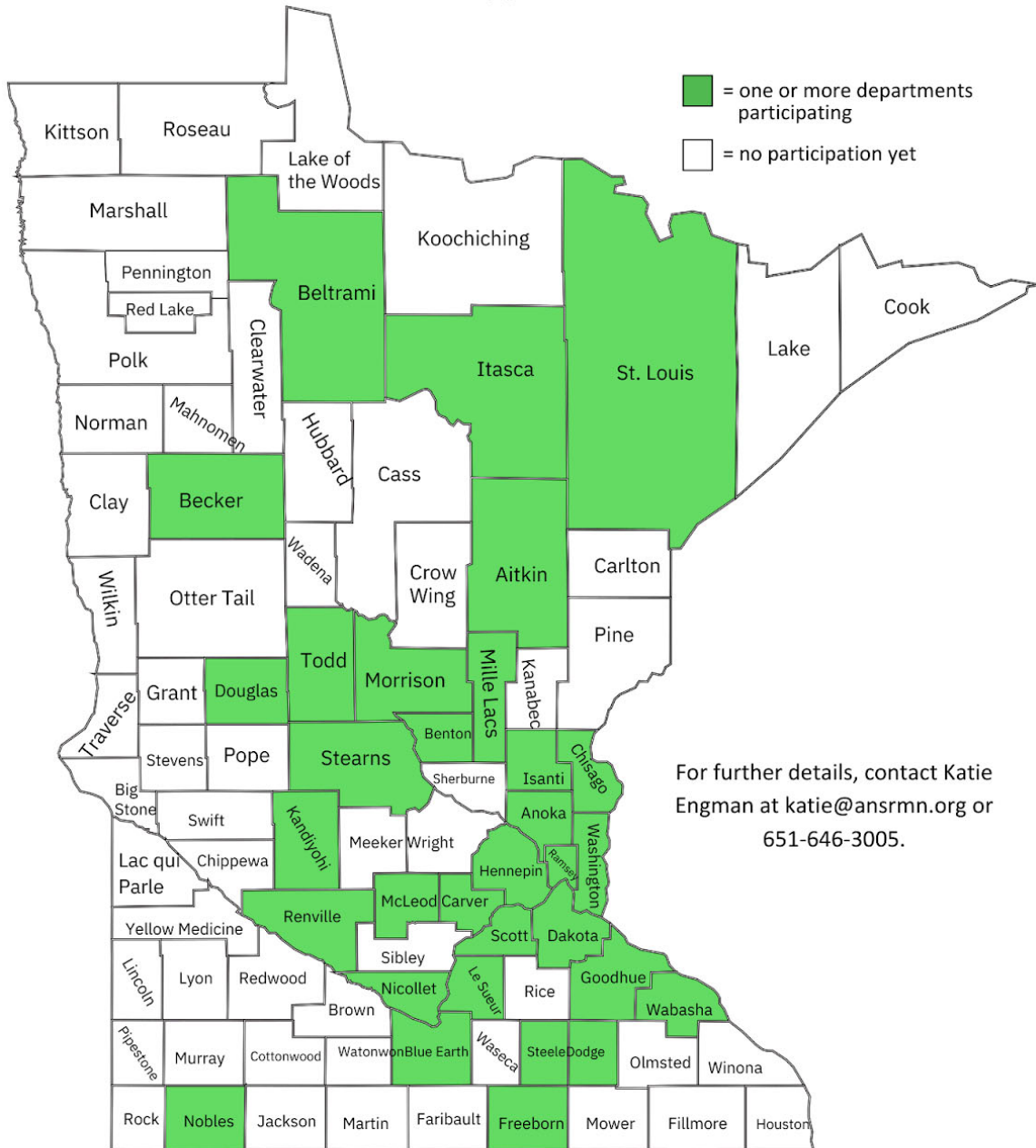
-Katie

See next page for map

2025 Participation in Congratulate & Educate: Tobacco Compliance Program

Departments in 28 counties have signed up for the 2025 Congratulate and Educate program. Is your county one of them? Funding can go to public health departments or law enforcement agencies.

Let's turn this map green in 2025!



Updated 1/30/2025