

The MN Department of Human Services (DHS) Behavioral Health Division, in partnership with the Association for Nonsmokers-MN (ANSR), is offering an educational tobacco compliance check opportunity called Congratulate and Educate. This is an opportunity to conduct one-on-one education on local, state, and federal youth access laws 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 annual enforcement check;
- 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 help conduct these compliance checks.

Timeline: All educational compliance checks need to be completed before June 30, 2024. 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: DHS will pay the department \$50 per vendor/per educational compliance check. DHS and ANSR will provide all educational materials for the vendors, including a certificate. Funding is based on a first-come, first-served basis.

How do I apply? No grant proposal is necessary. DHS will use the information you provide 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
- Last date of tobacco enforcement checks
- Number of licensed tobacco retailers: *The number of educational inspections you plan to do. You cannot go over this number, and if you go significantly under, it takes resources away from other communities.*
- 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 am more than happy to talk through how you might implement this in your community! This is a great opportunity to start and continue conversations around sales and the youth vaping epidemic.