

# Cottage Grove – a community protecting children from tobacco

Cottage Grove is an All-America City (1968, 2004) and the covered bridge capital of Oregon. It is located on the edge of the Cascade foothills in the southern Willamette Valley 20 minutes south of Eugene and Springfield. Cottage Grove is well known for its lakes, rivers, hiking and biking trails, farmers' markets, festivals, and abundant opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Cottage Grove's commitment to community engagement and collaboration builds bridges to a healthier place for all to live, learn, work and play.

## Tobacco's influence

Unfortunately, tobacco use undermines this healthy culture. Cottage Grove is located in Lane County, which continues to have a higher rate of tobacco use than the state. Approximately one in five Lane County adults and one in three young people report currently using tobacco or electronic cigarettes.

## Local partners work together

Lane County Public Health's Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP) supported Cottage Grove partners to prevent and reduce tobacco use by providing data and policy information to local leaders.

The Cottage Grove City Council worked closely with Lane County's TPEP to understand and adopt three key policies to reduce tobacco use and prevent Cottage Grove children from using tobacco:

***Expanded protection in the Indoor Clean Air Act.*** In February 2015, the City Council included e-cigarettes in the Indoor Clean Air Act. It also expanded the smoke-free and vape-free areas at worksites and public places from 10 to 25 feet of doors, windows, air intake vents and accessibility ramps.



**Promoted smoke- and vape-free parks.**

In November 2015, the City Council passed a smoke-, vape- and tobacco-free parks policy. This included city hall and the library, designated as parks.

**Regulated tobacco retail.** In February 2016, Cottage Grove passed a tobacco retail-licensing ordinance that:

- Requires tobacco and e-cigarette retailer licensing
- Bans free samples
- Prohibits new retailers within 1,000 feet of public schools
- Prohibits self-service displays and mobile vending; and
- Requires posting of health warnings and Oregon Tobacco Quit Line information.



**I think the people who operate the tobacco industry are very smart ... I think their decision to increase the amount of tobacco supply in our community is deliberate. They are targeting families, people in our community and – ultimately – our kids.**

Principal Iton Udosenata,  
Cottage Grove High School

To hear more of Principal Iton's story, visit [www.smokefreeoregon.com](http://www.smokefreeoregon.com)

**Counties awarded for advancing tobacco prevention efforts**

Lane County Public Health, community partners and TPEP have bolstered their work in Cottage Grove and other communities with additional funding from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (TMSA). Crook, Deschutes, Klamath, Lane, Marion, Multnomah and Umatilla counties received TMSA funds for 2015–2017.

