



## **NC Alliance for Health 2009 Policy Priorities**

Approved by Membership 1/12/09

### **Tobacco-Use Prevention Policy Priorities:**

- Protect public health by eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke:
  - Advocate for legislation to make all NC worksites and public places 100% smoke-free, in combination with;
  - Advocate for legislation that restores local control so local communities can pass ordinances to protect the public from exposure to secondhand smoke;
- Support an increase in North Carolina's cigarette excise tax BY at least \$1.00 and support an excise tax increase on other tobacco (non-cigarette) products to national average (approximately 35% of the wholesale price);
- Promote Funding for Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Programs: Strategically protect existing and secure new public funding and state appropriations, including Master Settlement Agreement Funds, that support effective (and evidence-based) tobacco use prevention and cessation programs and other public health initiatives and evaluation targeted at reducing the impact of tobacco use on health and the disparities that exist related to tobacco use prevention.

### **Obesity Prevention Policy Priorities:**

- Promote physical activity and education among youth in schools:
  - Establish statewide "quality" physical education guidelines in NC's Basic Education Program;
  - Mandate and appropriately fund minimum requirements of minutes per week for all students grades K- 12, based on recommendations from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE). Appropriate instruction periods include 150 minutes weekly physical education instruction in elementary schools, 225 minutes weekly "healthful living" instruction in middle schools, and 2 units of "healthful living" (1 semester of health, 3 semesters of PE) as a graduation requirement for high school;
- Promote the ability of local communities to support routine physical activity and healthy eating through built environment supports, including multi-modal transportation infrastructure (eg. mass transit, sidewalks, bike lanes), recreation opportunities (eg. parks, trails greenways), and food venues (eg. grocery stores, farmers' markets, community gardens);
- Implement and fully fund Child Nutrition Standards for grades K – 5;
- Promote Funding for Obesity Prevention Research and Programs: Strategically protect existing and secure new public funding and state appropriations that support effective (and evidence-based) obesity prevention programs and other public health initiatives and evaluation targeted at reducing the impact of obesity and the disparities that exist related to obesity prevention.

**Other items presented to the Alliance for endorsement will be handled on a case-by-case basis by either the appropriate policy committee or the Executive Committee depending on the urgency.**