



Melrose Health and Wellness Coalition Nicotine Free Generation

The Melrose Health and Wellness Coalition's mission is to partner with residents, community-based organizations, and agencies to foster a well-integrated network of support with the purpose of preventing substance use, increasing access to critical resources, and promoting health and quality of life for all Melrose residents.

The Nicotine-Free Generation policy is a forward-thinking approach that aims to protect our young people and embodies our mission and vision. The Coalition's goal is to prevent youth from starting harmful habits young, thus promoting health and quality of life as stated in our mission. This coincides with the long-term goal of this policy.

Our Coalition has continuously worked to support prevention efforts in the city, understanding the need for programming and policies like Nicotine-Free Generation. We have been informed over the years, through YRBS data and youth voices, of the concerning trends pertaining to nicotine use, indicating that students are starting to use at younger and younger ages. This increases their risk of developing a substance use disorder and increases the risk of chronic diseases such as cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disorders.

Research has shown that vape use can lead to nicotine addiction, negatively impacting brain development during crucial adolescent years, and poses risks to respiratory health. Marketing campaigns are targeting youth, creating products that appeal to young people, making them more enticing. These products are widespread, and some products are lower in price, which increases appeal due to affordability. This policy is a vital step in the right direction to protect the youth of Melrose from these risks.

Nicotine-Free Generation sends a powerful message to our community, highlighting our continued effort to safeguard the health and future of our children. We are ready to take action in protecting our children, ensuring they grow up in a nicotine-free environment. As a Coalition, we aim to protect the youth of Melrose in all areas of their life and that includes protecting them from the harms of nicotine.

As a Coalition, this policy aligns with our mission, promoting health and quality of life for all Melrose residents. It highlights the continued need for prevention programs and policies to protect our youth. We encourage local policy makers to stand with the coalition and support this policy. Please join us in our mission of promoting health and quality of life for all residents, especially for the young people in Melrose.