

From: [Bonny Carroll](#)
To: [Maureen Buzby](#); [Karin Carroll](#)
Subject: RE: Tobacco Prevention funding clarification
Date: Monday, December 23, 2024 11:02:27 AM

Thanks, Maureen

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 10:51 AM
To: Karin Carroll <kcarroll@somervillema.gov>
Cc: Bonny Carroll <bcarroll@somervillema.gov>
Subject: Tobacco Prevention funding clarification

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Good morning, Karin.

Terrific meeting last Thursday. So many thoughtful questions from Board members. There were some new ones – and we’ve done a lot of NFG info sessions.

I wanted to clarify something we briefly touched on - - funding, or more specifically, additional funding.

As you know, the work that Bonny and I do is funded through a grant from DPH. DPH gets funds from the state’s participation in a lawsuit against the Tobacco Industry brought by several State Attorneys General decades ago – a lawsuit that resulted in the 1998 “Master Settlement Agreement”. The state takes that money in a block grant and the decides where the funds will go. Currently the MTCP program receives only a portion of those funds - anywhere from 5 to 10%. The rest goes into the state’s general funds and is spent on roads, bridges, whatever. The state legislature has a lot to do which how much gets allocated to tobacco control.

The American Lung Association publishes an annual Tobacco Control “grade” for all the states. Massachusetts traditionally earns an “A” for policy because we have some of the best tobacco prevention policies in the nation and an “F” for funding because we don’t use all the funds from the Feds on tobacco prevention. This will be pointed out by the opposition if Somerville decides to hold a public hearing.

Massachusetts joined with other states in the Juul Labs lawsuit a few

years ago which resulted in a settlement of \$41 million coming to Mass. That money is with the AG's Office and we're still waiting for finalization on how the money will be appropriated. My understanding is that it is specifically targeted for education, prevention, enforcement, and treatment. My hope is that it will help fund more tobacco prevention programs like the Six City Initiative. Currently only about half of our municipalities have state-funded tobacco control programs. Please feel free to share this email with Somerville Board of Health members if you feel it will be helpful.

Thank you,
Maureen

Maureen Buzby
Regional Tobacco Prevention Program
562 Main Street
Melrose, MA 02176
781-979-4158

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