



### **Mission:**

**The North Carolina Alliance for Health is a statewide coalition promoting policies for tobacco use prevention and cessation for a healthier North Carolina.**

The Alliance is an independent coalition of nearly 35 private, public and professional non-profit organizations, service and citizen groups and individuals from across the state working together to coordinate tobacco use prevention and cessation efforts in North Carolina. The primary purpose of the NC Alliance for Health is to promote the approval of policies at the state and local levels to reduce tobacco use and its impact on the health and economic well being of North Carolinians.

### **Guiding Principles:**

The Alliance aims to:

- Engage in proactive advocacy for policies and positions to reduce tobacco use that are agreed upon by the Alliance membership.
- Develop and promote long and short-term goals to implement policies to reduce tobacco use.
- Develop long and short-term strategies to achieve our policy goals.
- Encourage collaboration among all organizations and individuals interested in reducing tobacco use.
- Inform the public about tobacco-related issues.
- Ensure adequate sustainable funding for programs and services in NC to reduce tobacco use.

### **Background:**

The North Carolina Alliance for Health got its start in May 2002. The Alliance strives to make decisions by consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved, organizations and individuals that have completed and returned the attached Membership Application Form may vote. Policy committees of the Alliance are responsible for developing recommendations for policy position statements for each General Assembly Session. Policy committees also guide the development and implementation of strategies to achieve the coalition's policy positions. Organizational committees addressing Governance, Membership and Finance work to ensure the success of the Alliance in its future policy efforts.

### **The Alliance has identified Three Priority Policy Issues in 2006:**

- Protect public health by eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke.

#### **Interim Policy Goals:**

- **Overturn Preemption:** Advocate for legislation that restores the authority of local decision-makers to pass measures protecting the public from exposure to secondhand smoke in their communities.
- **100% Smoke Free:** Advocate for legislation that would make all worksites and public places 100% smokefree. In 2006, the Alliance will focus its efforts on making the General Assembly smokefree.
- Support an increase of at least 75 cents in North Carolina's cigarette excise tax.
- Support the use of Tobacco Settlement Funds for programs and policies aimed at preventing and reducing tobacco use, including adequate and sustained funding for Vision 2010.

**The following organizations are active Alliance members:**

American Cancer Society  
American Heart Association  
Campaign For Tobacco Free Kids  
Clay County Tobacco Awareness Group  
Common Cause NC  
Comprehensive Cancer Control Collaborative of NC  
Eastern District NC Public Health Association  
El Pueblo  
ENTER (ETS Training, Education & Research) Program  
Flynt Mullinix Health Care Consulting, Inc  
Health Link Advisory Board  
Hertford-Gates Peer Educators  
Medical Review of North Carolina  
National Association of Social Workers – NC Chapter  
NC Association of Local Health Directors  
NC Association of Student Assistance Programs  
NC Dental Hygiene Association  
NC Pediatric Society  
NC Prevention Partners  
NC Public Health Association  
SAVE (of NC GASP)  
School Health Association of North Carolina  
TAP (Tobacco Awareness Program in Jacksonville)  
Teens Against Tobacco Use (Greenville)  
Tobacco Free for Life

**Additional Excise Tax Partners:**

AARP  
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition  
Covenant with North Carolina's Children  
League of Women Voters of North Carolina  
March of Dimes  
Mental Health Association of NC  
NC Academy of Family Physicians  
NC Association of Educators (NCAE)  
NC Child Care Coalition  
NC Consumers Council  
NC Council of Churches  
NC Health Access Coalition  
NC Medical Society  
NC School Board Association  
State Employees Association of NC (SEANC)  
And many local medical societies and boards of health

Join us! Call 919-463-8328 or e-mail [ncalliance@heart.org](mailto:ncalliance@heart.org) for more information.

[www.ncallianceforhealth.org](http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org)

**Save the Dates for 2006 Meetings:**

The Alliance holds membership meetings monthly during legislative sessions and every other month during off-session times. Membership meetings are scheduled generally for the third Monday of the month from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. at the American Heart Association located in Research Triangle Park.

**Mark your calendar with the dates for 2006 Alliance meetings:**

**May 1; June 5; July 10; August 7**



## **2006 Membership Agreement** (updated 10-03)

### **Who is eligible to become a member of the North Carolina Alliance for Health:**

Individuals or organizations that support the Alliance Mission (see attached).

### **Members are asked to make a serious commitment to the Alliance by actively participating in the following ways:**

- 1) To the extent possible, the provision of in-kind services (such as providing meeting space; administrative and materials support; providing training and technical assistance; direct advocacy/lobbying; providing expert testimony; policy development and analysis; etc).
- 2) Encourage attendance by key organization staff or volunteers at Alliance membership meetings and committee meetings.
- 3) Active participation in at least one Alliance committee (encouraged but not required). Committees will provide the primary opportunities to contribute to the development of policy positions and strategies as well as organizational structure and process. Alliance members are encouraged to participate in as many committees as they have time and resources to devote, though members are expected to participate in at least one *policy* committee, as the organization's focus is on policy advocacy. Policy committees currently include: Excise Tax, Tobacco Settlement Issues, and Secondhand Smoke. Organizational committees include: Governance, Finance and Fundraising, Membership Committee. Committees can be created as additional need arises.
- 4) Support of the Alliance Legislative Agenda and/or policy positions by each organization and its members;
- 5) Promotion of the Alliance Policy Agenda and/or policy positions through each organization's network such as via e-mail list-servs, newsletters and the like (example: forward a legislative update on Alliance issues).
- 6) Alliance members must give permission to use their names on all Alliance documents and in connection with actions/policies approved by members. Organizations not wishing to have their name printed on Alliance documents may submit a written request to the Alliance Executive Director, Chair or Treasurer.
- 7) Adherence to the Alliance's informal operating guidelines that include the following:
  - We will strive to make our decisions by consensus;
  - If consensus cannot be achieved, organizations and individuals who are Alliance members have the right to vote (one vote per person & organization). A two-thirds majority vote will carry an issue;
  - All persons and organizations in attendance at meetings will have a right to share views. Only those individuals and organizations which have completed and returned the attached Membership Application Form may vote;
  - All persons in attendance may choose to abstain from voting when appropriate.
- 8) Membership Revocation/Withdrawal-Any member who fails to meet the membership requirements or is determined to have a material and/or perceived conflict of interest with the mission or goals of the Alliance may be removed at any time by the Executive Committee. Any organization being considered for removal may request a vote on the matter by the full Alliance membership. A vote by the Alliance membership on such a matter will supercede a vote by the Executive Committee.

