

News Release

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Illinois Liquor Control Commission Helps Communities

Reduce Youth Access To Tobacco

CHICAGO – The Illinois Liquor Control Commission today announced that for the fourth year it is awarding nearly \$1 million in 153 grants to 222 Illinois communities to implement the “Kids Can’t Buy ‘Em Here” Tobacco Enforcement Program (TEP) to reduce youth access to tobacco products.

The purpose of the “Kids Can’t Buy ‘Em Here” TEP is for communities to establish a comprehensive educational and enforcement program on minimum -age tobacco laws. During this program, approximately 10,000 retail education kits will be distributed to tobacco retailers and communities, which will collectively conduct approximately 16,000 compliance checks of tobacco retailers.

“Despite the difficult budget year, we are fortunate to receive funding to continue to administer the Tobacco Enforcement Program which enables Illinois communities to collaborate with retailers to stop illegal tobacco sales to minors,” said Jeff Barr, ILCC tobacco program manager. “These funds are part of our ongoing efforts to educate the retailers on minimum -age tobacco laws.”

Since the beginning of the program, there has been a significant increase in retailer compliance. In the first year of the TEP, after the first round of compliance checks 81.2 percent of the retailers refused to sell tobacco to minors. In the most recent round of compliance checks, the retailer compliance rate increased to 90.4 percent.

The Illinois Liquor Control Commission is the state regulatory agency that ensures liquor licensees comply with the provisions of the Liquor Control Act. The Commission provides industry education programs focusing on enforcement practices, Illinois liquor control laws, reducing illegal sales of alcoholic beverages to minors, and responsible selling and serving practices. The Commission is also designated as the lead agency in developing a strategy for reducing the availability and delivery of tobacco products to minors. For additional information call 312/814 -2206 or write to the Commission at 100 W. Randolph St., Suite 5 -300, Chicago, IL 60601, or visit us on our web site at www.state.il.us/lcc.

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