



Goodhue County
Health and Human Services

426 West Avenue
Red Wing, MN 55066
(651) 385-3200 • Fax (651) 267-4882

DATE: March 3, 2025
TO: Goodhue County Board
FROM: Nina Arneson, Goodhue County HHS Director
RE: Out of State Travel Request

BACKGROUND:

A combination of state grant funds and Juul Settlement funds will cover the cost for Gina Johnson, GCHHS Public Health Educator–Live Well Goodhue County Coordinator, to participate in the National Conference on Tobacco or Health on August 26-28, 2025, in Chicago, IL.

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has encouraged local Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) grantees to attend the National Conference on Tobacco or Health. Our local SHIP initiative is Live Well Goodhue County.

In May 2023, Minnesota settled a lawsuit with Juul for deceptively marketing e-cigarettes.

In February 2025, MDH offered all SHIP grantees Juul settlement funds for tobacco prevention capacity building and training and awarded \$5000 to Goodhue County. These Juul settlement funds will cover Gina Johnson’s national conference expenses (excluding staff time) as well as supplement the existing Live Well Goodhue County community partner award budget for local school district and nonprofit organization staff to attend conferences and trainings.

The National Conference on Tobacco or Health (NCTOH) is one of the largest, long-standing gatherings for top United States tobacco control professionals. The convening attracts a diversity of public health professionals and is convened by the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) with other stakeholders.

Gina Johnson previously attended this conference in 2017 and 2022 and MDH has approved her travel to the 2025 conference. The SHIP grant will cover her staff time and the Juul settlement will cover her conference expenses such as registration, travel, hotel and meals.

RECOMMENDATION: The GCHHS Department recommends approval of this request.