



## Director's Updates



Through the work of the ECHO Coalition, Essex County hosted an **Overdose Fatality Review TableTop Exercise** on June 5, 2025.

The exercise was facilitated by Lisa Warden, a NYS Public Health Analyst, of the CDC Foundation. Lisa is part of the New York Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) Team. The team developed a **Mock Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Toolkit** to help communities prepare for real-life OFRs. Essex Co was just 1 of 3 communities to pilot the toolkit.

Grounded in national OFR standards and informed by emergency preparedness principles, the toolkit guided the local group through a fictional—yet realistic—

simulation of an overdose fatality case review. There was amazing engagement & participation from local agencies.

*Ultimately, OFRs help communities figure out how to improve community systems to prevent future overdoses.*

*Quote from Public Health Director, Linda Beers:*

*"The Mock Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Toolkit developed and piloted by the ORS Team has been an invaluable resource for Essex County. As a small rural community with a deeply collaborative spirit, we were thrilled to have a structured guide that walked us through best practices in establishing our own OFR team. The partnership with ORS—especially Lisa and Jim—was thoughtful, thorough, and incredibly responsive. Their ability to customize the toolkit to our needs made the tabletop exercise feel real, impactful, and actionable. Thanks to their leadership and openness to improvement, Essex County is moving forward with confidence as we prepare for our first official OFR this October, fully equipped with the tools and structure needed to make a difference."*

## Department Highlights

The Essex County Health Department is hosting a Community Baby Shower! This special event is designed to support and celebrate expecting parents/caregivers and families with infants under one year old.

We are bringing together valuable resources to help new and soon-to-be parents connect with:

- Local resources
- Health education
- A fun photo station
- Car seat checks
- Lactation support
- ECHD nurses available to discuss vaccines



## ECHD Program Data – JUNE (unless otherwise noted)

### Community Health Assessment and Improvement Planning

CHA/ARHN/Data Meetings – 1

CHA/CHIP Partner Meetings – 4

CHA Training/Webinars – 3

NYSACHO CHA/CHIP Workgroup - 1

CHA/CHIP Progress Updates & Special Reports – On June 23, ECHD and our hospital partner UVMHN-ECH held a Community Planning Session from 11AM – 2PM at the hospital board room. There were **23** individuals in attendance representing over **17** agencies/organizations that serve Essex County. The session focused on fostering collaboration among various organizations involved in community health initiatives, with participants sharing their roles and the importance of working together to address community health needs. Key discussions highlighted the challenges of operating in silos and the enthusiasm for re-establishing connections. Participants emphasized the integration of social needs with healthcare as a crucial factor in improving community well-being, while also acknowledging the need for effective communication and partnership among stakeholders.

The agenda included an overview of the 2025-2030 New York State Prevention Agenda, which emphasizes broader social determinants of health. A timeline was established for completing the Community Health Assessment by the end of the year, with a focus on local data to meet specific county needs. Preliminary CHA data was shared, broken out by Prevention Agenda Domain Area (see photo right). Evidence-based interventions and the inclusion of diverse populations in health initiatives were also underscored.



### Communicable Disease

#### Communicable Disease Surveillance/Epidemiology Investigations

Respiratory Illness investigations (Flu, COVID, RSV, TB) - 7

GI Illness (Water/Foodborne) Illness Investigations - 8

STI/Hepatitis & HIV Investigations - 7

Arthropod-borne (Mosquitos and Ticks) Disease Investigations – 78

- Lyme disease: **41**
- Anaplasmosis: **34**
- Babesiosis: **2**
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever: **1**

Food Safety/Outbreak Investigations - 0

Other investigations – 1 (Varicella)

#### Community Outreach:

- Two camp walk-throughs with State Representatives discussed immunization requirements (none) and to know who is “susceptible” to vaccine preventable diseases if an outbreak occurs.
- Camp investigation procedure for illness, including line list format, Measles/Mumps signs and symptoms, state roles and local health department roles.
- 120 Tick Kits for Traffic Safety Event
- 20 Tick Kits & Bat Magnets for School Events
- 5 Tick Kits & Bat Magnets to Camp Southwoods
- 30 Tick Kits & Bat Magnets to Seagle Music Colony



## TB Program

No update.

## Immunization Program

Clinics in the community – **1 (Moriah)**

Individuals immunized - **2**

Healthcare provider, school nurse, day care provider or other public health detailing activities:

- Direct phone/email interaction with four (**4**) school nurses regarding school health topics.
- Direct interaction with three (**3**) school nurses at pre-K/K roundup, and discussed various public health topics including vaccine records between VT and NY providers and schools.
- Coloring books and crayons and with age-appropriate immunization information delivered directly to all Pre-K and K families coming to register their children at 3 area schools (Moriah, Willsboro, Crown Point)
- Data exchange with School Nurses regarding Essex County, NY childhood immunization rates provided by NY State dating back until 2017.
- Reached out to four (**4**) preschools in area regarding State Immunization follow-up per State request.

## Screening Services

HCV Screenings - **1**

HIV Screenings - **1**

TB Screening - **2**

STI Screening Services –referrals and/or services rendered – **0**

## Rabies Prevention Program

Rabies Vaccine Clinics – **1 (Chesterfield)**

Pets Vaccinated – **98**

Rabies investigations - **22**

Specimens submitted for testing – **5** (1 positive woodchuck – Ticonderoga)

YTD Positive Specimens: **2**

People approved for rabies post exposure prophylaxis – **6**

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## Emergency Preparedness & Response

Real World Events, Drills & Exercises – **0**

Training/Continuing Education – **6**

Community Engagement/Collaborative Planning Meetings – **6**

Volunteer Coordination – Updated the MRC unit profile and activities

Plan Updates/Revisions – Review/Revisions started on the PHEPR (Public Health Emergency and Response) plan, and continue on the EOP (Emergency Operations Plan).

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## Chronic Disease

Coalition/Collaboration Interactions/Meetings & Highlights

Nutrition (Well Fed) - **0**

Tobacco - TURN – **3**

Chronic Disease and Older New Yorkers - **5**

Public Health Detailing Screenings & Disease Concordant Care Promotion – **1**

Campaigns/Events – **3**

- Get Fit Essex County Challenge – 30-Day AMRAP
- Men’s Health Month – June
  - 600 (approximately) carpenter pencils, flashlight toolkits, and bobbars with men’s health messaging were distributed locally through community outreach efforts.
  - Two men’s health Tuesday Trivia posts were made on the Essex County Health Department’s social media





C & PROSTATE  
ANSWERS

**SPOTLIGHT ON NICOTINE**

- May 31<sup>st</sup> World No Tobacco Day – Provided information online and resources for quitting nicotine.
- TURN is additionally working on developing a Tobacco Treatment Spotlight campaign to raise community awareness regarding local resources to treat nicotine dependency.
- Nicotine use, especially including adult cigarette smoking and youth vaping, continue to be of concern in Essex County. *The Essex County Health Department has compiled a brief public health detailing report (attached) summarizing the concerns and the ongoing efforts to address them.*



**Community Opioid Overdose Prevention Program (COOP)**

Narcan Kits Distributed – **38**

- MLS Community Care Kiosk – **8**
- The Prevention Team – **4**
- DSS – **17**
- DMV Community Care Kiosk - **9**

Groups Trained - **0**

SUDOR Submissions/ODs – **1** Non-Fatal; **0** Fatal

Total ODs Year-to-date – **16** (**14** Non-Fatal; **2** Fatal)

Community Care Kiosks at the Mountain Lake Services and DMV locations were re-stocked and include (in addition to Narcan kits) personal hygiene, first aid, nail, and tick kits, CAP packs, fentanyl and xylazine test strips, and gun locks. While requests for Narcan through the Health Department’s website have declined, pick-up through vending has increased.

**Environmental Health**

**Air, Water and Food Health & Safety**

Air Safety/Quality/Excessive Heat Alerts - **2**

Public Water Notices

Boil Water Orders – **1** (Eagle Lake/Chilson Hill – issued 06/03/2025, lifted 06/05/2025)

Blue-Green Algae Notices - **0**

**Climate and Health**

Initiatives –

- Year 13 LHD Performance Incentive – Completed the required Community Based Organization List and the Communication Plan, which is a bonus measure. All performance measures are on track to be submitted prior to the July 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Activities –

- Social media posts promoted Essex County Cooling Centers and the Air Quality Index to help the community stay safe during the projected heat dome(s) and adverse air quality days. Cooling towels and heat illness educational materials are also being distributed to high-risk groups in Essex County, including but not limited to older residents and DPW employees.
- The New York State Department of Health has released a *New York State Heat Risk and Illness Dashboard*. One of the tools is an up-to-date Heat-related Emergency Care and Health Index, which clearly shows a correlation between the heat index and Essex County EMS calls and Emergency Department Visits: [https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/environmental/heat\\_dashboard/](https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/environmental/heat_dashboard/)

### Heat-related Emergency Care and Heat Index, Essex County

Updated 7/7/2025

During extreme heat, more people are likely to seek emergency services due to heat-related illness. View daily emergency department (ED) visits, emergency medical services (EMS) calls and heat index in New York State excluding [New York City](#). Heat index (real-feel temperature) is hotter than temperature because it considers humidity.



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## Family Health

### Baby Steps to Bright Futures

Babies born & families offered the Program – **20** (6 pending)  
Families enrolled in the program – **5** (2 from prior months that just accepted)  
Families that sent a packet as unable to reach or declined the program - **11**  
Referrals out to programs and services – **1**



### Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Lead Cases open (elevated lead levels in pregnant women or children) & ensure appropriate follow-up care:  
Active Children - **12**  
Pending confirmatory testing - **14**  
Released with confirmatory testing stating capillary testing was falsely elevated - **0**

### Car Seat Program

Car seat check clinics - **6**  
Car seats checked - **11**  
Car seats issued as new & installed – **2**

### School Nurse Stetho-Scoop Monthly Meeting – 3 school nurses in attendance\*

Stetho-scoop Topic(s): vaccine updates and sources for vaccine information, sexual health education in schools, NY immunization registry interface with Vermont immunization registry (regarding NY students who see VT providers), flu vaccine clinics in schools in the fall, and the upcoming Essex County school nurse in-service in August.  
\*All school nurses receive meeting minutes and any resources discussed.

### Sexual/Reproductive/Relationship Health Program

Schools/Camps/Groups – **1** (Lake Placid Elementary)  
Classes/Students – **3** groups; approximately **45** students  
CAP Pack Distribution – **112** (ECHD Lobby, Moriah Pharmacy, Lake Placid Kinney, HHHN Newcomb, Minerva Town Hall, DSS Lobby, Camp Tree Tops)

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## Children's Services

### Early Intervention

Referral received in to the program - **3**  
Children found eligible & enrolled (have a plan) - **30**  
Children awaiting evaluation - **4**  
Speech Therapy - **10** receiving; **16** waiting  
Occupational Therapy - **4** receiving; **0** waiting  
Physical Therapy - **4** receiving; **2** waiting  
Special Instructional Services - **10** receiving; **3** waiting

### Preschool Program

Children in process of evaluation, referrals - **21**  
Children enrolled - **92**  
Children waiting for services  
Counseling - **5**  
Occupational Therapy - **6**  
Physical Therapy - **1**  
Speech Therapy - **13**  
Special Education/Itinerant Teacher - **16**  
Children Attending Center Based Classrooms  
In County - **8**  
Out of County - **10**

### Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs (CYSHN)

Children enrolled – **38**

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## WIC

Target Enrollment – **600**

Enrolled - **508**

Women enrolled - **101**

Infants (0-1) enrolled - **110**

Children (1-5) enrolled - **297**

High Risk Families - **38**

Nutrition Education sessions – **241**

    In person - **49**

    Remote - **192**

Referrals made to other programs/services - **152**

Breastfeeding Initiation Rate – **86.3%**

WIC had a successful Management Evaluation with NYSDOH. NYSDOH staff rated Essex County WIC as “Often Exceeds Expectations”, overall.

Last week, WIC and Creative Kitchen Garden in Westport hosted the first of 13 weekly WIC and Pick events. Families were so excited for the first session back at the farm. Penelope could not be happier enjoying a snap pea and turnip salad!

Please come see us any Tuesday from 5-7PM at Creative Kitchen Garden!



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## Home Health Care

New Patients Admitted into ECHD Home Care – **51**

Patients Safely Discharged from Program – **33**

Home Visits Made – **701**

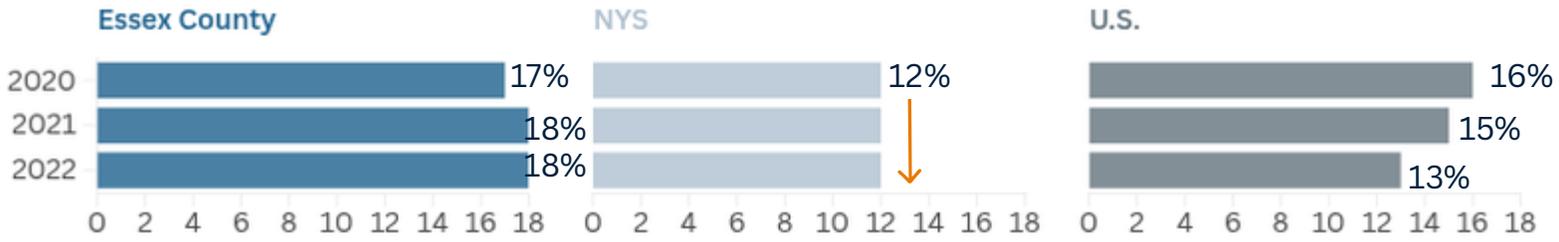
Miles Driven by Staff – **3,953**

Diagnoses of Admitted Patients – Pulmonary Fibrosis, Stroke, Paralytic ileus, gastroenteritis & colitis, Surgical aftercare for surgery on the digestive tract & genitourinary system, orthopedic, joint replacement, spinal surgery, circulatory system and amputation, Encephalopathy, Embolism, Infection, Venous hypertension, Cancer of the stomach, Pressure ulcer and wounds, Respiratory failure, Fractures, Kidney disease, Atrial Fibrillation and heart disease, Cerebral palsy, Obstructed bile duct, Diabetes, Graft versus host disease, ALS, Bipolar disorder, Shingles, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

# TOBACCO USE

Adult cigarette smoking rates in New York State have held steady in recent years. However, Essex County's smoking rate, while also unchanging, exceeds both the New York State and national averages.

## Adult Smoking (18+)

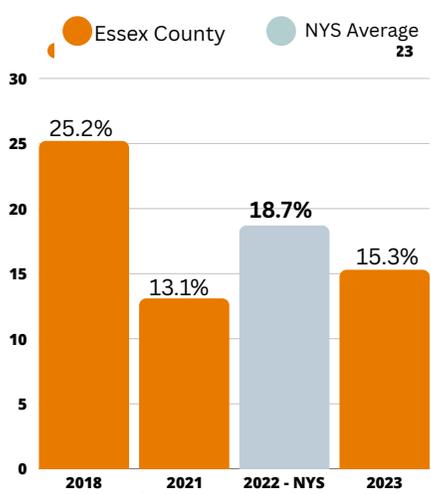


Source: County Health Rankings; data years 2025, 2024, 2023

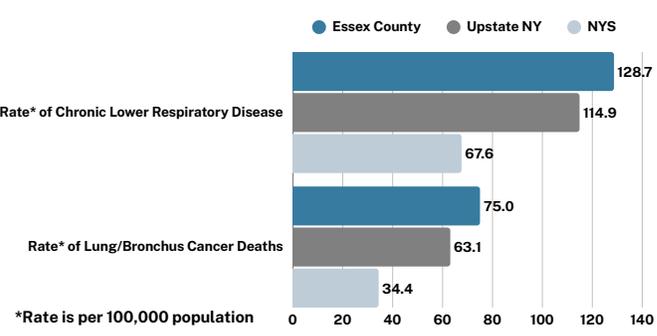
After a sharp rise in youth tobacco use (2014-2018), largely due to e-cigarettes, New York State is now seeing a decline across all product categories among high schoolers. Essex County reflects this trend, with lifetime e-cigarette use among 7th-12th graders dropping from about 25% in 2018 to 15% in 2023.

## Student Tobacco Use

Percent of Student (7-12 grade) Self-Report Use of E-Cigarettes in Last 30 Days



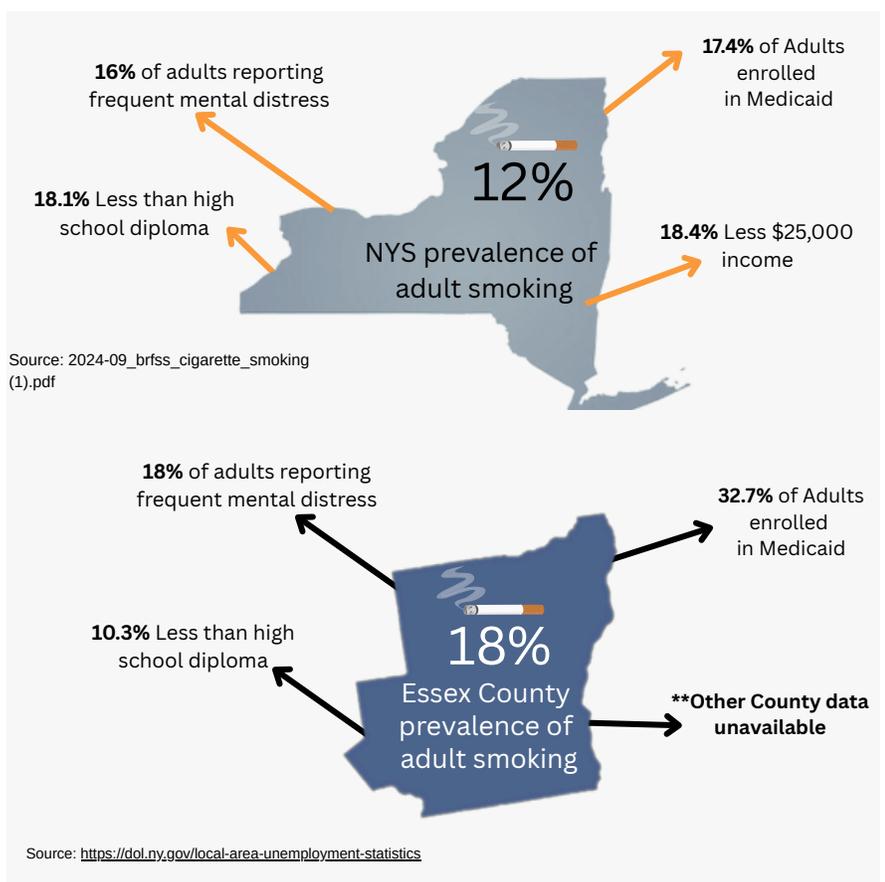
Source: EC data is from the 2023 New York Prevention Needs Assessment Survey for Essex County  
NYS - NY Youth Tobacco Survey



Source: CHIRS 2021

## Disparities

Statewide smoking rates are highest among adults who are Medicaid enrollees, unemployed, low-income (under \$25k), frequently mentally distressed, less than high school educated, or living with a disability.



Source: 2024-09\_bfss\_cigarette\_smoking (1).pdf

Source: <https://dol.ny.gov/local-area-unemployment-statistics>

# TOBACCO USE

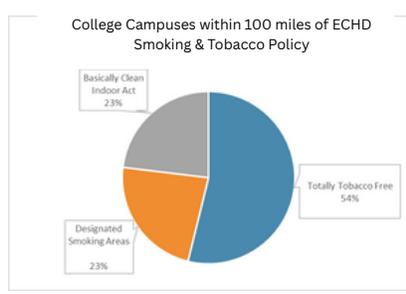
## Access

For every **one major grocery store** in Essex County, there are **six tobacco retailers**.



**A 2024 observational survey of 38 out of 49 active licensed tobacco retailers in Essex County found the following:**

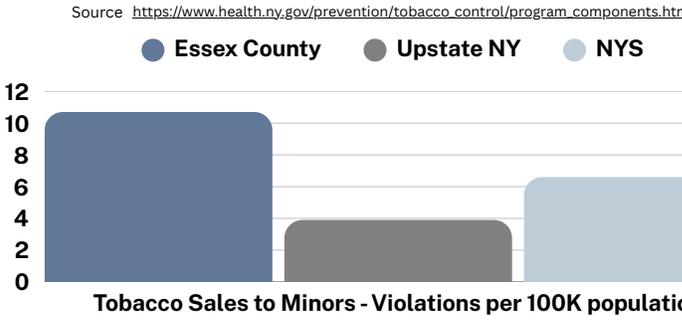
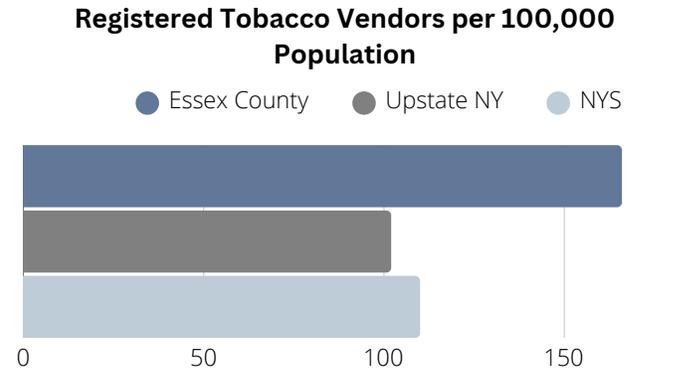
<b>Price</b>	<b>78%</b> of tobacco retailers surveyed were running a <b>price promotion</b> .	
<b>Product</b>	<b>86%</b> of surveyed retailers sold flavored products. This included 2 retailers selling flavored e-cigarettes, which are illegal.	
<b>Place</b>	<b>Nearly half</b> of tobacco retailers displayed products within a foot of candy, toys, slushy machines etc.	
<b>Promotion</b>	<b>More than half</b> of surveyed tobacco retailers had a <b>tobacco ad displayed below 3 ft</b> at a child's eye level.	



Clean Indoor Air Act = Smoking prohibited within 25' of all University owned buildings

Sources: An Analysis of Federal Trade Commission Cigarette Reports | An Exploratory Landscape Analysis of Tobacco Patterns, Prevention, and Policy in Essex County, NY | Retail Food Stores, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, 2024 | Registered Retail Dealers of Cigarettes and Tobacco Products and Vapor Products

Living near more tobacco retailers is linked to higher smoking rates and lower quitting success for all ages. These outlets are often concentrated in low-income neighborhoods. This higher density of tobacco outlets also correlates with higher rates of youth tobacco experimentation and smoking.



**What are we doing about it?**

**Essex County Health Department** created and leads the Tobacco Use Reduction Network (TURN) of Essex County, a coalition of local organizations dedicated to combating tobacco use.

- Key partners include:**
- C-TURN** champions youth-led efforts for tobacco-free policies in New York.
  - The Heart Network** North Country Nicotine Consultants work with providers on evidence based intervention.
  - The Prevention Team** School based prevention education and interventions.
  - The NYS Department of Health** – Saranac Lake District Office retailer compliance checks.
  - TURN's** comprehensive strategy includes community education, local support, informing decision-makers, and advocating for change.

## The Essex County Health Department (ECHD) has developed a plan to use JUUL settlement funds to combat youth vaping through:

- **School Education:** Implementing evidence based the "You and Me, Together Vape Free" curriculum from Stanford Medicine in elementary schools, starting in 2025-2026.
- **Retailer Checks:** Funding compliance checks to prevent underage nicotine sales.
- **Community Outreach:** Running media campaigns and in-person education for parents, and promoting the "Keep your focus, not your fix" campaign for youth.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Partnering with BOCES and local anti-vaping groups to coordinate efforts.

•\$278,594.49 - Total - Five payments starting in 2025



# Essex County Committee Form Miscellaneous Resolution Request

Department:

Committee:

Date:

Submitted By:

Nature of and Reason for Request:

JUUL paid a lawsuit for its deceptive and misleading marketing that glamorized vaping and targeted young people. Essex County is slated to receive a total of \$278,594.49 over 5 years with an initial payment of \$104,472.93. The Health Department convened the Tobacco Use Recovery Network (TURN) Coalition and has developed a comprehensive plan for the funding in alignment with settlement allowable expenses as detailed in the attached proposal. Essex County initiatives include evidenced based education, retailer compliance checks, media and community outreach and partnership coordination. The first 3-year budget installment is requested as follows:

A 4197A 426900 JUUL	\$104,472.93
A4197 549104 JUUL	\$70,500.00
A4197 546003 JUUL	\$33,972.93

**ATTACH TEXT OF ANY SPECIAL PROVISIONS TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE FINAL RESOLUTION**  
*Additional language can be submitted as an email attachment, or physically attached to this request.*

Budget Impact:

A. Will Resolution impact current budget and/or future budgets:  Yes  No  
Explain:

B. Is appropriation from contingent account required?  Yes  No  
If "Yes" amount:  Transferred to What Account #:

C. If a Budget transfer is required, please complete the following:  
From Account #:  which has a current balance of:   
To Account #:  which has a current balance of:   
Transfer amount:

D. Were funds originally budgeted for this item or purpose?  Yes  No  
If "Yes" amount:  Account #:

E. Funds or Costs to be paid from: Account #:   
Current Account Balance:  Balance after Expenditure:

F. Is there any State and/or Federal reimbursement?  Yes  No  
If "Yes" amount:  Program:

**CERTIFICATION BY SIGNATURE THAT THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE.**

Name:

Title:

Date:

Signature: