

## Policy Guidelines for the Public Health Trust

- The purpose of the Public Health Trust is to provide a vehicle for the dissemination of settlement funds from health-related litigation.
- All activities funded must have a nexus or connection to the issue upon which the lawsuit was based. The funds should be used to address the public harm allegedly caused by the plaintiff in the case.
- The Public Health Trust will be guided by principles of fairness, transparency and accountability.
- The Public Health Trust will be guided by the requirements of the settlement order which created the funds to be distributed.
- For most settlements, the process by which grants are made will be a rigorous, competitive process, informed and supported by experts in philanthropy and in the area of public health to which the funds will be directed. The process will be open to public scrutiny and public notice will be given of all programs proposed and all grants made.
- Grantees must enter into a grant agreement and comply with the fiscal and programmatic reporting requirements of the agreement, or risk being required to return of the funds to the Public Health Trust.

## Conflicts of interest

- Members of the Public Health Advisory board or the advisory committees for particular settlements may not apply for funding unless prior approval is given by the executive director of the Public Health Trust. An advisor who intends to apply will not be eligible to participate in the preparation of the request for proposals, nor can he or she be a reviewer of proposals.
- The executive director of the Public Health Trust reserves the right to recuse an advisory board or committee member from participation in a discussion or proceeding if she deems the participation a conflict or potential conflict.
- A reviewer may not be involved in the review of, or discussion regarding, any application when his or her participation constitutes a conflict of interest. Reviewers must alert the executive director of the Public Health Trust of any possible conflict, real or apparent. A conflict exists when the reviewer is a relative or close personal friend of a principal involved in a proposal, if he or she has a financial or professional

**relationship with the applicant institution and/or a principal involved in the proposal, if the funding decision would benefit the reviewer directly or if the reviewer has any interest in the application that is likely to bias his or her evaluation of the proposal.**

- **A reviewer must recuse him or herself from the review of a proposal if he or she feels unable to provide objective advice regarding a proposal.**