

The Master Settlement Agreement: Utah's Allocation of Tobacco Settlement Restitution Dollars

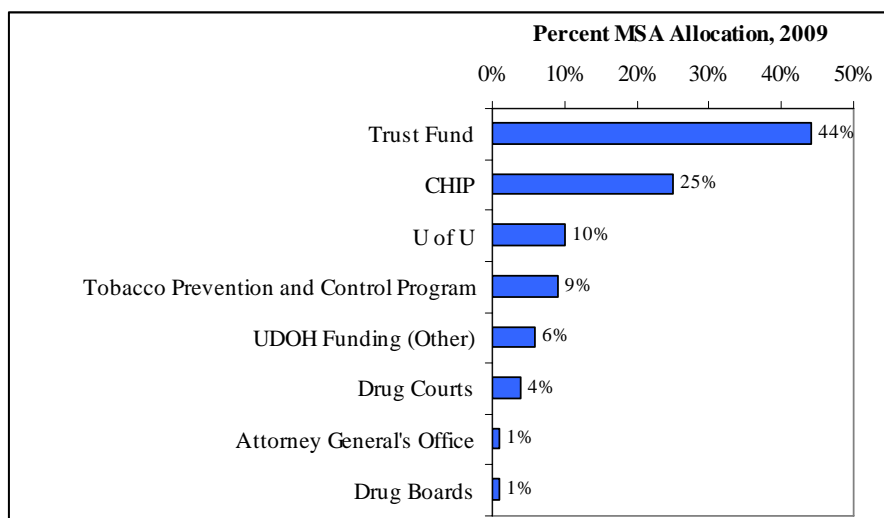
What Are Master Settlement Agreement Restitution Funds?

In 1998, Utah and 45 other states settled a lawsuit to recoup funding from the tobacco industry for costs incurred to states for tobacco-related illness. This multi-state Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) provides annual restitution funds to Utah.

How Are MSA Restitution Funds Intended to be Used?

The MSA contains explicit language that shows MSA payments to the states were expected to be used to prevent and reduce tobacco use, and otherwise reduce the toll of tobacco on the states. Of the \$42 million in MSA restitution funds paid to Utah each year, \$4 million are allocated to the Utah Department of Health's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program (TPCP). *MSA funds are not State general funds. The TPCP does not receive any State general funds.*

How are Utah's MSA Restitution Funds Being Spent?



Currently, the Utah legislature allocates 9% of MSA tobacco restitution dollars to tobacco prevention and control.

Why is Funding Tobacco Prevention with MSA Restitution Funds a Good Investment?

Since the allocation of MSA restitution funds to Utah's TPCP, the rate of smoking among adult, youth, and pregnant women has declined by one-third.^{i ii iii} The rate of children exposed to smoking in their homes has declined by two-thirds.^{iv}

Total funding for Utah's TPCP is currently 36% of the annual funding level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Studies show that states which fund tobacco prevention and control at a higher level see faster and more significant declines in smoking.

Does the MSA Restrict Tobacco Company Lobbying Against Tobacco Prevention Funding?

Yes. "[N]o participating manufacturer may support or cause to be supported the diversion of any proceeds of this settlement to any program or use that is neither tobacco-related nor health-related in connection with the approval of this Agreement or in any subsequent legislative appropriation of settlement proceeds." [III.(n)]^v Utah's Attorney General Office is the enforcing body of this provision.

A long-term commitment to tobacco control is necessary to continue to save lives and reduce tobacco-related costs. Tobacco prevention saves lives and money.

For more information, see: <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/state.php?StateID=UT>
<http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0086.pdf>

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- i Utah Department of Health. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). 1989-2008.
 - ii Utah Department of Health. Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System (YRBSS). 1999-2007.
 - iii Utah Birth Certificate Database, 1999-2008.
 - iv Utah Department of Health. Utah Healthcare Access Survey, 2001-2008.
 - v Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids: <http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0064.pdf>