

Sand Springs was honored recently for its efforts to improve health and quality of life with a Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) Healthy Communities Incentive Grant. Sand Springs received a \$50,000 TSET Healthy Communities Incentive Grant for making all city property tobacco-free and vapor-free, adopting street and zoning policies that improve walkability and promoting community gardens and farmers' markets. Sand Springs will use the grant money for trail connections for a city-wide trail project. This is the second incentive grant for the city. In 2014, the city was awarded a \$50,000 grant at the bronze and silver levels for the design for city sidewalks and pedestrian use improvements. TSET's incentive grants for communities are based on population size and the types of strategies implemented. Cities that have met TSET's criteria and been awarded a grant determine how the incentive grant will be used to promote health in the communities. Grant dollars are frequently used to leverage other funds for community projects that advance health. TSET offers incentive grants to eligible communities that have met criteria established for the program such as tobacco-free policies, availability of fresh fruits and vegetables and increasing opportunities for residents to become more physically active. To be eligible to apply, communities must first be recognized through the Certified Healthy Oklahoma program, a partnership between the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals, the Oklahoma Turning Point Council, the State Chamber and the Oklahoma State Department of Health. Since the Healthy Communities Incentive Grant program began five years ago, \$2.5 million in grant funds have been awarded to 71 communities. "We are proud to recognize communities that are actively promoting healthy lifestyles" TSET Executive Director John Woods said in a statement. "We applaud the City of Sand Springs for their commitment to investing in the health of their citizens."