

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Summit to Help DC Smokers Quit Announced for Sept. 25

DC Tobacco Free Coalition Event Coincides with 'DC Calls It Quits Week' #DCQUITS

WASHINGTON - The Howard University Cancer Center will host the “DC Calls It Quits: DC Tobacco Control Summit” on Friday, Sept. 25, at the Armour J. Blackburn Center, 2397 Sixth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20059. The DC anti-smoking summit will bring together more than 100 health officials and doctors, lawmakers and community leaders to discuss policy approaches that raise awareness of the importance of quitting smoking.

During the anti-smoking summit, lawmakers, tobacco control advocates, practitioners and others will forge and strengthen new and existing partnerships. The focus of the summit’s activities will be to strengthen community partnerships and anti-smoking initiatives, reduce health disparities and update housing policies related to tobacco control. To attend, [register here](#).

“We are proud to join with the DC Department of health as part of the DC Calls It Quits Week campaign from September 21-25,” said Dr. Carla Williams, interim director of the Howard University Cancer Center. “Quitting smoking is critical to protecting the health and addressing public health disparities among DC residents.”

The event is being held as part of the [“DC Calls It Quits Week,”](#) a broad-based public health awareness campaign on smoking cessation, Sept. 21-25. The campaign is spearheaded by the District of Columbia Tobacco Free Coalition and the District of Columbia Department of Health (DOHDC). More than 40 local healthcare organizations, businesses and civic leaders are participating in events throughout the District.

Summit sponsors include the DC Tobacco Free Coalition, with contributions from the American Cancer Society-Cancer Action Network; the American Heart Association, the Howard University Cancer Center, Breathe DC, the Community Wellness Alliance, the DC Department of Health, American Lung Association in DC and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals.

“The DC Tobacco Free Coalition is very proud to be a partner in the DC Calls it Quits Week, September 21-25,” said Charles Debnam, chairman of the DC Tobacco Free Coalition. “We support people wanting to quit the use of tobacco. This summit and campaign will bring awareness and education to the services the District provides around tobacco control and the free resources like the DC quit-line, 1-800-Quit-Now.”

To help smokers quit for good, the District of Columbia offers the DC quit-line – 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669) – with services including counseling sessions with certified tobacco treatment specialists, free nicotine patches and a local number for Spanish-speaking residents.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recognizes tobacco dependence as a chronic disease that often requires repeated intervention and multiple attempts to quit. Nearly seven in 10 adult smokers would like to quit smoking, and over 61 percent of DC smokers have made an attempt to quit in the last year. Of the 42.1 million people in the United States who smoke cigarettes, only 5 percent are able to quit without assistance from healthcare providers.

For more information on “DC Calls it QuitsWeek”, visit <http://www.dctfc.org/dc-calls-it-quits/>