

Program:

- Increase Tobacco Control manpower by hiring more agents, investigators and support personnel.
- Increase taskforce activity to a monthly event to cover a given 2-3 county area and inspect all stores for excise tax compliance while maintaining current level of 5000 sale-to-minor compliance checks annually.
- Dramatically increase surveillance operations to enhance interdiction opportunities to intercept cross-border smugglers.
- Increase sale-to-minor saturation operations (where multiple agents coordinate checks to cover a given area over the course of a day) to at least once per month.
- Increase merchant education and begin offering training at the ATC office.
- Change ever decreasing revenue stream from Tobacco Settlement monies to excise tax revenue.

Impact:

- Prevent loss of over \$5,000,000 of federal substance abuse block grant funds by keeping Synar sale-to-minor survey rates under 20% through vigilant sale-to-minor compliance activity.
- Increase compliance level for retailer and wholesalers for payment of tobacco excise taxes.
- Increase merchant education training.
- Increase sale tax remittance compliance by retailers.

How it Works:

- Enforce all tobacco laws in the State of Arkansas.
- Reduce/prevent youth access to tobacco.
- Enforce the collection of tobacco excise tax through retailer inspection.
- Enhance remittance of sales tax by suspending/non-renewal of permits for retailers who are delinquent in sales tax.
- In order to effectively combat the expected increase in tobacco smuggling and counterfeiting, additional enforcement agents, auditor investigators, administrative support staff, a dedicated IT/Programmer and an Intelligence Analyst are needed.

Administration/oversight: Final budget decisions and accountability rest solely with the Director of Arkansas Tobacco Control, subject to the direction and approval of the Governor of Arkansas.

