

Panhandle

Public Health District

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For immediate release

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Free Tobacco Treatment Specialist Certification Training Available for Nebraska Healthcare Professionals

Nebraska healthcare professionals have an opportunity to expand their skills in helping individuals quit tobacco through free Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS) Certification Training offered through a partnership between Tobacco Free Nebraska (TFN), the Mayo Clinic Nicotine Dependence Center, and the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP).

Three training opportunities will be available, including two in-person sessions and one virtual session. Registration fees are fully sponsored by TFN and RHTP, making participation free for eligible Nebraska healthcare professionals. Class sizes are limited.

Training Dates

- **September 1–3, 2026** – In-person training in Gering, Nebraska
- **January 19–21, 2027** – Virtual training
- **May 4–6, 2027** – In-person training in North Platte, Nebraska

The Tobacco Treatment Specialist Certification program is designed for healthcare professionals who are interested in tobacco cessation or who provide clinical care to individuals who use tobacco. Participants will gain specialized knowledge in evidence-based tobacco treatment, behavior change strategies, and pharmacotherapy from clinical and scientific faculty at the Mayo Clinic Nicotine Dependence Center.

The training is accredited by the Mayo Clinic School of Continuous Professional Development and the Council for Tobacco Treatment Training Programs (CTTTP). The 2026 course has been approved for 30.25 Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits, with additional credit types available.

“Quitting tobacco is one of the most important steps someone can take to improve their health, but no one should have to do it alone,” said Jessica Rocha, Community Wellness and Prevention Coordinator at Panhandle Public Health District. “Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialists provide the expertise, encouragement, and evidence-based care that can make the difference between another quit attempt and lasting success. By increasing the number of trained specialists across Nebraska, we can connect more people with the support they need to quit for good.”



Eligible participants include a wide range of healthcare professionals, such as physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, behavioral health providers, counselors, social workers, addiction professionals, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, dentists, dental hygienists, dietitians, psychologists, and other healthcare and mental health professionals.

To earn certification, participants must complete approximately 10 hours of online coursework, attend the live training program, pass a certification examination, and complete practice-hour requirements. Registration is currently open for the September 1–3, 2026, training in Gering. Interested participants can create an account and register online at the Mayo Clinic registration page: [Register for the September 2026 Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#).

Individuals interested in the January 2027 virtual training or the May 2027 North Platte training may sign up to receive notification when registration opens by completing the [interest form](#).

For more information about eligibility requirements, certification prerequisites, or upcoming sessions, contact kyla.scott@nebraska.gov.

About Tobacco Free Nebraska

Tobacco Free Nebraska works to reduce the burden of tobacco use across the state by promoting prevention, cessation, and policies that support healthier communities. Through partnerships and statewide initiatives, Tobacco Free Nebraska helps connect Nebraskans with resources and support to live tobacco-free lives.

For more information or to get involved, contact Nicole Berosek; nberosek@pphd.ne.gov; 308-279-3496.

Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety, and quality of life for all who live, work, learn, and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community.

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