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## **Easterseals and CVS Health Foundation Take on Disparities in Smoking Among Washington's Disability and Veteran Communities**

*Grant supports Washington's veterans, caregivers and individuals with disabilities on path to better health through Freedom from Smoking program*

July 19, 2016, Seattle - Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of death and disease in the United States. While more Americans are kicking the habit, 42 million still identify as smokers—accounting for 1 out of every 5 citizens. People living with disabilities face even higher instances of smoking, nearly 40% more than those who reported having no disability (CDC, 2011).

CVS Health knows promoting a tobacco-free lifestyle extends well beyond their cigarette-free stores. That's why they're working with Easterseals, the nation's indispensable resource for people facing disability, to help the disability community, veterans and caregivers kick the habit for good.

"If we are to help Americans on their path to better health, then tobacco-free living must remain a top, public health priority—for people of all abilities," said Eileen Howard-Boone, President, CVS Health Foundation. "And that path starts in a different place for everyone. Together with Easterseals, we're engaging the populations they serve including people with disabilities, veterans and caregivers who we know want to quit, but may not know where to start."

Through support from the CVS Health Foundation, and in collaboration with the American Lung Foundation, Easterseals is advancing a smoking cessation program specifically tailored to the populations it serves: people with disabilities, veterans and caregivers—all groups with higher incidence of smoking. The partnership leverages the American Lung Foundation's *Freedom from Smoking* online program, which takes participants through modules containing tips and lessons to quit smoking.

"We're proud to partner with the CVS Health Foundation as we help the individuals and families we serve kick the habit for good," said Cathy Bisailon, President & CEO, Easterseals Washington. "It's a true honor to be selected among the grant awardees. We hope Washington families are inspired to take advantage of this opportunity."

Easterseals Washington was among eight affiliates to receive this year's grant. The grant will support local efforts to put the Washington community on the path to better help.

For more information about smoking cessation visit

<http://www.easterseals.com/washington/our-programs/smoking-cessation.html>.

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### **About Easterseals Washington**

Easterseals Washington has been helping individuals with disabilities and their families, live better lives for almost 70 years. Whether helping someone simply gain greater independence for everyday living or secure employment, Easterseals Washington offers a variety of services to help people with disabilities address life's challenges and achieve personal goals. Our purpose is to change the way the world defines and views disabilities by making profound, positive differences in people's lives every day.

Easterseals Washington serves more than 4,100 adults and children with disabilities and their families annually through nine offices and program sites. Find more information about how we are challenging America to recognize the new face of disability by redefining disability for the 21st century at <http://www.easterseals.com/washington/>.

### **About CVS Health**

CVS Health is a pharmacy innovation company helping people on their path to better health. Through its approximately 9,600 retail pharmacies, more than 1,100 walk-in medical clinics, a leading pharmacy benefits manager with more than 75 million plan members, a dedicated senior pharmacy care business serving more than one million patients per year, and expanding specialty pharmacy services, the Company enables people, businesses and communities to manage health in more affordable and effective ways. This unique integrated model increases access to quality care, delivers better health outcomes and lowers overall health care costs. Find more information about how CVS Health is shaping the future of health at <https://www.cvshealth.com>.