



2023 Action Agenda Report Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force

The Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force (Task Force) was established in 1995 to advise the Governor and the General Assembly on the prevention and management of heart disease and stroke in North Carolina. The Task Force adopted its **Action Agenda** for the 2018 session on October 25, 2017. The Action Agenda outlines recommendations for legislative action on issues of particular interest to the Task Force. Task Force members review current heart disease and stroke data and examine evidence-based strategies for the prevention and management of cardiovascular disease as they consider the feasibility of pursuing each recommendation on the Action Agenda.

The Task Force designates four categories of support for its priorities:

Level of Support	Description
Support	The Task Force takes leadership on the issue
Endorse	The Task Force endorses an action that is important to preventing heart disease and stroke that is being advanced by another group
Administrative	The Task Force seeks to advance issues which may not require legislation
Track and Monitor	The Task Force monitors certain issues that may require action at a later time

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Level of Support	Recommendation	Status as of September 22, 2023
Support	\$3,180,887 in recurring funding to expand EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program)	No progress to report
Support	Stroke Designation Language Change	Regulatory Reform Bill Conference Report contains changes to include all stroke designations (Acute Stroke Ready, Primary Stroke Center, and Comprehensive Stroke Center) and to add thrombectomy-capable centers to stroke center designations which brings language to recommended Guidelines.
Endorse	\$3 million in recurring funding to expand tobacco cessation services including funding for Quitline NC	\$11,250,000 in nonrecurring funds in each year of the biennium for evidence-based electronic cigarette and nicotine dependence prevention and cessation activities and to support data monitoring to track tobacco/nicotine use and exposure among youth and young adults and populations at risk; for independent evaluation of the reach, effectiveness, and outcomes of the State's evidence based programs designed to help youth addicted to nicotine through electronic cigarettes and other new and emerging tobacco and nicotine products quit. Funds come from the State of North Carolina's settlement with JUUL Labs, Inc.
Endorse	\$17 million in recurring funding for tobacco use prevention	

Endorse	Care4Carolina's efforts to close the health insurance gap by signing the C4C resolution	Both the House and Senate passed House Bill 76 to expand Medicaid in North Carolina subject to the passage of the state budget by June 30, 2024. Governor Cooper signed the bill into law on March 27, 2023. The state budget passed both legislative chambers on September 22, 2023.
Endorse	Multi-agency collaborative recommendations for comprehensive Tobacco 21 legislation	No Tobacco 21 bill was introduced.
Endorse	\$600,000 annual investment in FY2023-2024 to sustain and expand the Medication Therapy Management Program (MTM).	Not included in the SFY2023-2025 budget.
Endorse	Recurring funding for School Meals for All to provide access to breakfast and lunch and may use funds appropriated to the State Aid for Public Schools fund for this purpose.	\$3 million in recurring funds in each year of the SFY 2023-25 fiscal biennium plus an additional \$3 million in non-recurring funds in the first year of the biennium to offset the reduced-price breakfast and lunch co-pays in schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

For more information on the Task Force and for details on each Action Agenda item, visit startwithyourheart.com

October 16, 2023