SHIP

What happened?
Through passage of the Health and Human Services bill, Governor Dayton and the Legislature provided $35 million for the biennium to fund the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), less a one-time appropriation of $200,000 for menthol cigarette intervention grants and $371,000 for the biennium to cover the costs of health projected spending and outcome reports. New this session is language that expands SHIP to include evidence-based strategies that address dementia, with a continued focus on policy, systems and environmental change.

Why is this helpful for Minnesotans?
Investing in SHIP and related approaches offers multiple benefits for Minnesotans. Thanks to programs like SHIP, obesity rates have stabilized in Minnesota, while rates in neighboring states and the U.S. as a whole have increased. At the same time Minnesota is trimming the obesity trend line, the state is making progress on reducing tobacco use. Youth smoking fell from 18.1 percent in 2011 to just over 10 percent in 2014, the steepest decline ever recorded by the Minnesota Youth Tobacco Survey. Similarly, the adult smoking rate fell from 16.1 percent in 2010 to 14.4 percent in 2014. That’s the lowest adult rate ever recorded in the state.

Background
SHIP was established in 2008 as part of Minnesota’s bipartisan health care reform legislation to improve health and decrease health care costs. Knowing that most people want to make healthy choices in diet and physical activity, SHIP helped local communities modify their policies, systems and environments to make the healthy choice the easy choice.

SHIP supports the work of local public health and tribal communities, employing evidence-based best practices in schools, communities, worksites and healthcare settings to make real, sustainable and measurable change. SHIP invests in local solutions and empowers communities to help prevent chronic diseases by decreasing obesity and reducing tobacco use and exposure.