

TCN Member Survey Report

A Message from the TCN Executive Committee

In January and February 2020, the Tobacco Control Network Executive Committee's Member Survey Workgroup, in collaboration with the CDC Office on Smoking and Health, conducted a TCN Member Survey of state and territorial health agency tobacco control program managers and Funders Alliance organization leads. The purpose of this effort is to evaluate the effectiveness of resources and services provided by TCN to its membership, and to identify opportunities for TCN to better support the needs of its members. A total of 22 program managers and Funders Alliance leads took the survey, and the Executive Committee is committed to ensure that the work of the TCN changes as a result of the input provided by members across the nation through survey results.

For the duration of the Executive Committee's implementation of the [2019-2022 TCN Strategic Map](#), the Executive Committee will make the following changes to its work to better serve its membership:

TCN Resources and Regional Meetings

- Improve communications via email and on the TCN website to keep members better informed of all available TCN services and resources
- No longer produce podcast series uploaded to YouTube, and continue to explore effective and innovative ways to facilitate virtual learning
- Curate and disseminate a resource packet to help onboard new state health officials to the fundamentals of state and territorial tobacco control
- Continue to convene regular regional meetings, and increase emphasis on the sharing and discussion of region-specific challenges, emerging issues, and updates

2021 TCN Policy Recommendations Guide

- Include a systematic policy tracking element in the 2021 Policy Recommendations Guide by continuing to update and expand the [TCN Interactive State Tobacco Policy Map](#)
- Address youth e-cigarette use, tobacco industry tactics, preemption, and heated tobacco products in the forthcoming Policy Recommendations Guide

CDC Office on Smoking and Health Program Services Branch Support

- Work with OSH/PSB to recommend streamlining and refocusing of technical assistance and communications delivered to state and territorial tobacco control program grantees

Thanks again to all of the members who provided input to the TCN Executive by taking this survey. Any questions you have about this survey, or additional recommendations on how TCN can better support state and territorial tobacco control programs, can be sent to tcn@astho.org.

TCN Executive Committee

Survey Results

TCN Resources

1) Please indicate which of the TCN resources you have used and how helpful they were to your state or territory tobacco control efforts.

Resource	Who Found it Helpful (%)	Mean Score*
TCN News	91%	5.28
TCN Webinars	86%	4.81
Help Your Peers	86%	5.35
2016 TCN Policy Recommendations	82%	4.56
TCN Forum	73%	5.32
Interactive State Policy Map	73%	5.19
Job Postings	64%	5.21
TCN Podcasts	41%	4.71

*Responses were scored on a scale from 1 to 6, with 1 representing "Not very helpful" and 6 representing "Very helpful."

2) Of the resources you have not used, please indicate why you have not used these. Select all that apply.

Response	(%)
I didn't know about it.	43%
Not enough time.	43%
I didn't know where to find them.	7%
I didn't know how to use them.	--
The resource is not applicable to my state or territory's tobacco control work.	--
Other	7%

Other (n=1):

- I've never used anyone's podcasts and I'm not job hunting.

3) Is there anything else that TCN could potentially provide in the future?

Responses (n=6):

- No known at this time.
- Currently doing a great job! There may be obvious improvement for collaboration with other organizations doing similar work.
- Any guidance documents that could be used during times of leadership transition in the agency (i.e. new state health commissioner) to succinctly explain state tobacco control programs and their value, while also allowing for tailoring
- Not that I can think of at this time.
- There is incredible information overload - less content and more focus on the progress and capacity for progress of each state, as well as a single clearing house to go to for resources would be helpful.
- Cannot add anything at this time.

4) What education and capacity building needs do state health commissioners and other public health agency leaders have that TCN could address through future resources?

Responses (n=9):

- We STILL need state health AND state Medicaid commissioners to come together to support cessation services. Initiatives such as 6/18 are useless without buy in and direction to implement from the commissioners.
- Resources provided are thorough.
- How to collaborate better?
- Same as above. We have recently had a good bit of turnover in this position, and having a "go-to" document would be really helpful!
- Our state struggles with frequently changing leadership. It would be great to have (or if this already exists, for me to find) a one pager with talking points about the importance of comprehensive tobacco control and the role of a state tobacco control program.
- Our Health Officer is well versed in tobacco prevention.
- Education/capacity building opportunities should be targeted by level of progress of each state and/or regionally.
- The collaboration between ASTHO and TCN on the development and synthesis of resources is helpful.
- State comparisons to provide new information.

TCN Regional Meetings

5) What TCN region are you a member of?

Response	(%)
Regions 1-3	32%
Region 4	21%
Region 5	21%
Regions 6-8	11%
Regions 9-10	16%

6) Has your TCN Regional Representative reached out to you in the past two months?

Response	(%)
Yes	81%
No	19%

7) How many TCN regional calls did you participate in during the last year?

Response	(%)
0 or 1	22%
2 or 3	28%
4-6	50%
7 or more	--

8) If you had to miss a regional call in the last year, what prevented you from participating? Select all that apply.

Response	(%)
Competing meeting	72%
Legislative sessions	11%
Lack of time	11%
Regional time difference	--
Other	6%

9) If you are unavailable to attend a scheduled regional call, do you delegate another tobacco control staff person to attend on your behalf?

Response	(%)
Yes	59%
No	24%
I was unaware delegating to other staff is permitted	18%

10) Please indicate which discussion topics/agenda items would be helpful in your state or territory tobacco control efforts. Select all that apply.

Resource	(%)
Hot topics/emerging issues updates (e.g., JUUL, marijuana, endgame strategies)	94%
TCN general updates: Help Your Peers requests, TCN Newsletter, Strategic Map, etc.	82%
Industry activities and state/local responses	82%
State Policy Updates	76%
National Legislative Update	65%
National Network Updates/Presentations	65%
Guest speakers -- specific policy/date topic	65%
Peer-to-peer resource sharing	53%
Highlights from TCN Executive Committee Calls or In-Person Meetings	29%
Guest speakers -- organizational	18%

11) Please share any additional thoughts on how TCN Regional Representatives can make regional calls more effective in the future. If you have not joined any regional calls, please share what would make these calls more useful.

Responses (n=2):

- No response at this time.
- More local updates with success stories – less focus on national level initiatives.

12) TCN's primary audience is tobacco prevention and control program managers and Funders Alliance organization leads. Would you find value in expanding the audience to include key tobacco program staff (e.g., policy coordinators, epidemiologists, etc.)?

Response	(%)
Yes	69%
No	31%

If yes, what opportunities would you like to see available for your staff?

Responses (n=7):

- Not sure at this time.
- Communications, evaluation, youth engagement, and disparities.
- Peer to peer resource sharing.
- It all should be available to all staff. That is how it used to be.
- Highlights, national legislative update, and state policy updates.
- Exposure to timely and relevant information.
- All so that we can determine what is most helpful.

If yes, what opportunities should be available to program managers only?

Responses (n=5):

- Not sure at this time.
- Funding-related topics.
- None.
- I appreciate the opportunity for program managers and funders alliance leads to have a vehicle that allows for candor among peers in the discussion of politically sensitive issues. During these times, it would be preferred to limit the discussion to program managers and identified team members (policy, communications) rather than an open forum extended to all program staff.
- Discussion regarding CDC positions and decisions and the impact on state programs.

TCN Policy Recommendations Guide

13) How have you used the Policy Recommendations Guide? Select all that apply.

Response	(%)
As an educational tool for public health partners and stakeholders	71%
To inform state and local policy decisions	59%
To justify specific policy and system changes	53%
To develop a strategic plan	53%
In training and technical assistance planning and capacity building	47%
To advance health equity efforts	35%
In data collection and surveillance planning	29%
As an education tool for policymakers	24%
Have not used the policy recommendations guide	18%
To cultivate new partners	12%

14) What additions to the Policy Recommendations Guide would make the document more useful?

Response	(%)
A grid of policies by state	59%
A map of policies by state	53%

15) What emerging issues should TCN include in the next edition of the Policy Recommendations Guide?

Responses (n=5):

- Not sure.
- Youth vaping.
- More emphasis on addressing disparities and an evolving industry – in the context of funding limitations.
- Keep preemption on the agenda. Also, tobacco/vaping industry strategies/tactics.
- ENDS and heat-not-burn.

16) Would you be interested in participating in a workgroup to update the TCN Policy Recommendations?

Response	(%)
Yes	35%
No	65%

CDC/OSH Program Services Branch

17) To what extent has the technical assistance you have received from OSH Program Services Branch in the past year been useful to you in completing activities for your states tobacco control program?

Extremely Useful	Very Useful	Useful	Somewhat Useful	Not at All Useful	Mean Score*
15%	55%	15%	15%	--	3.7

*Responses were scored on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 representing "Not at all useful" and 5 representing "Extremely useful."

18) Overall, how would you rate the quality of technical assistance, training, and guidance you received from the OSH Program Services Branch during the past 12 months? (Including communication, the OSH Weekly Dose, webinars, and in-person meetings)

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Mean Score*
25%	35%	25%	15%	--	3.7

*Responses were scored on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 representing "Not at all useful" and 5 representing "Extremely useful."

19) To what extent has the technical assistance you have received from OSH Program Services Branch in the past year been useful to you in completing activities for your states tobacco control program?

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Mean Score*
25%	30%	35%	15%	--	3.7

*Responses were scored on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 representing "Not at all useful" and 5 representing "Extremely useful."

20) Do you have any suggestions or feedback on how OSH's Program Services Branch can improve providing technical assistance?

Responses (n=7):

- The Weekly Dose is overwhelming. It needs to be streamlined to contain critical info - not everything that can possibly be put in there each week.
- Not at this time.
- Improve understanding of state program experiences and varied demands on their time.
- Not at this time.
- Technical assistance should be based on current progress of the state.
- We need more evaluation involvement. Having an evaluator point of contact for each state, separate from the Project Officer, would be helpful to the evaluators.
- Real time responses.

