

Read on for announcements from the [Tobacco Control Network](#) (TCN) and our partners.

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TCN News

News and announcements from the Tobacco Control Network

TCN Announcements

- It is with profound sadness that we announce the death of former CDC employee Matthew "Matt" McKenna, MD, MPH (CAPT, USPHS, RET). Matt culminated his career at CDC as the director of the Office on Smoking and Health, where he led the National Tobacco Control Program and supported global tobacco control activities. Throughout his career, Matt was a friend and mentor to many across CDC. His ability to link strong science and public health impact led him to focus on important public health matters, and to inspire those he mentored to do the same. He also had a wry sense of humor and an infectious laugh. CDC colleagues remember him fondly for his intelligence, dedication to public health, and his ability to combine scientific knowledge with a common sense belief in all people achieving their best health.

A memorial mass for Matt will be at St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church in Sandy Springs on June 27 at 10 a.m. You may add your memories and condolences to Matt's memorial tribute on CDC Connects or on his tribute page at [legacy.com](#).

- ASTHO, in collaboration with CDC/OSH, is issuing a request for proposals (RFP) for the TCN Workforce Development Pilot Learning Community (LC). Up to four (4) states will be awarded up to \$20,000 each. The LC will focus specifically on

*The twice-monthly **TCN News** provides a concise digest of tobacco control announcements to the Tobacco Control Network's membership base of tobacco control program managers and additional staff from each state, territory, and D.C., as well as our valued partners.*

Upcoming Events

[Considerations for Buprenorphine Initiation and Maintenance Care](#) – FDA
Online
May 10-11, 2023 | *Registration Required*

[Utilizing Peers in Tobacco Cessation Recovery: A Discussion](#) – National Behavioral Health Network for Tobacco and Cancer Control & UCSF Smoking Cessation Leadership Center
Webinar
May 22, 3-4 p.m. ET

[CDC-RFA-DP-23-0019: Outcomes Building Capacity to Reduce the Burden of Menthol and Other Flavored Commercial Tobacco Products in Communities that Experience Health Disparities](#) – CDC

improving recruitment and retention strategies and improving contracts processes in state health agency tobacco control programs. The final proposal deadline is **May 12, at 11:59 p.m. ET**. For additional information, please see the full [RFP](#). * All other application materials including the [Contractor Budget Template](#) and [Contract Terms](#) are also linked. *Submit all materials to tcn@astho.org.*

Congratulations New Program Managers!

In the first newsletter of each month, TCN recognizes newly hired state and territorial tobacco program managers. Congratulations to the following program managers:

- **Rosemar Rivera Hiraldo (PR)**

We regularly update the [TCN Member Directory](#) with state and island jurisdiction staff contacts for the tobacco control agencies funded by CDC's Office on Smoking and Health. To update your contact information in the directory, email tcn@astho.org.

Happy Anniversary!

In the first newsletter of each month, TCN recognizes anniversaries of state and territorial tobacco program managers to thank them for their leadership in tobacco control and public health more broadly. Thank you and congratulations to the following program managers:

- **Ari Skilling (FSM)** – 3 years
- **Ellen Cartmell (KY)** – 2 years

Information Call
May 23, 3 p.m. ET

[State of Black Health National Conference](#) – The Center for Black Health & Equity
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Sept. 6-8, 2023 | *Registration Required*

[Clear the Vapor \(save the date\)](#) – Parents Against Vaping e-cigarettes
Webinar
October 24-25, 2023

Funding Opportunities

[TCN Workforce Development Pilot Learning Community RFP](#) – ASTHO and CDC/OSH
ASTHO, in collaboration with CDC/OSH, is issuing a request for proposals (RFP) for the TCN Workforce Development Pilot Learning Community (LC). Up to four (4) states will be awarded up to \$20,000 each. The LC will focus specifically on improving recruitment and retention strategies and improving contracts processes in state health agency tobacco control programs.

Deadline: May 12, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

For additional information, please see the full [RFP](#). * All other application materials including the [Contractor Budget Template](#) and [Contract Terms](#) are also linked. *Submit all materials to tcn@astho.org.*

[CDC-RFA-DP-23-0019: Outcomes Building Capacity to Reduce the Burden of Menthol and Other Flavored Commercial Tobacco Products in Communities that Experience Health](#)

Help Your Peers Request

Parental Consent and Other Restrictive Parameters to Continuing Youth Surveys (i.e., YRBS, Monitoring the Future)

Deadline: May 17, 2023

A recent bill passed by the Kentucky legislature (HB 150) requires parental permission for any child under 18 to complete a survey with personal information. Parents additionally must be provided with a copy of the document ahead of the survey. Regardless of parental consent, schools also cannot provide any content, including questions, about sexual orientation or gender identity. As a result, many Kentucky schools have indicated it will not be feasible for them to continue with the YRBS or other, Monitoring-the-Future-type, surveys. We are interested in exploring ways to get strong data on youth use and susceptibility given these new parameters. Please share any knowledge, insights, and/or suggestions.

Partner Announcements

- **The following announcements are from FDA:**
 - FDA authorized the [marketing of three new tobacco-flavored heated tobacco products](#), Marlboro Sienna HeatSticks, Marlboro Bronze HeatSticks, and Marlboro Amber HeatSticks, included in Philip Morris Products S.A.'s supplemental premarket tobacco product applications.
 - Brian King, director of the FDA Center for Tobacco Products, published [a perspective looking back on the Center's progress on tobacco regulation in 2022](#), and a look ahead into 2023.
- **American Lung Association** released its [21st annual State of Tobacco Control report](#), which assigns letter grades, A through F, evaluating state and federal governments on their proven-effective

[Disparities](#) – CDC NCCDPHP

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) seeks to advance health equity through strategic partnerships and community engagement by addressing disparities caused by menthol and other flavored tobacco product marketing and use. This collaboration will 1) promote and support social, economic and community change; 2) educate the public, community leaders, partners, and decision makers on policy, systems, and environmental changes that can prevent and reduce menthol tobacco use; 3) implement culturally appropriate interventions tailored for community needs; and 4) use research, surveillance, and evaluation to measure progress made and inform public health action.

An [information call](#) will be held on May 23 @3 pm ET.

Deadline: July 6, 2023
@11:59 pm ET

If you know of any funding opportunities that would appeal to state and territorial tobacco control programs, please send those to us at tcn@astho.org.

Job Listings

[Postdoctoral Fellow in Health Communication and Tobacco Control](#)

UNC School of Medicine
Chapel Hill, NC

[Director](#)

University of Wisconsin Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention
Madison, WI

[Youth and Special Populations Coordinator](#)

Texas Tobacco Prevention

tobacco control laws and policies necessary to save lives. **Note:** *American Lung Association grades apply to policy only and do not comment on the tobacco prevention and control work within any health agency.*

- **Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids**, along with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights, and Truth Initiative, released their [annual report assessing FY23 state tobacco prevention and cessation program funding compared to CDC-recommended funding levels](#). According to the report, states will collect \$26.7 billion from the 1998 Master Tobacco Settlement and tobacco taxes but spend just 2.7 percent of that on tobacco prevention and cessation programs.
- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
 - 371 localities and three Native American tribes placed [some type of restriction on flavored tobacco products](#) by the end of June 2022 and, of those, 110 have fully comprehensive policies that prohibit sales of all types of flavors across all products, including menthol/mint/wintergreen tobacco products at all retailers.
 - According to research published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, three-quarters of current e-cigarette users reported using [blended flavors \(i.e., Banana Ice, Cool Cucumber\) and over half used concept flavors](#) (i.e., Blue Dream, OMG, Marigold) in the past month.
- In a recent video, **Rescue Agency** Founder and President Jeff Jordan discuss [evidence-based communications strategies for disassociating vaping as a mental health benefit](#) and empowering teens to see how vaping can harm their mental health.

and Control Program
Austin, TX

About the Tobacco Control Network

The TCN's mission is to improve the public's health by providing education and state-based expertise to tobacco prevention and control at the state and national levels.

The TCN is a network of tobacco program managers and staff from state and territorial health departments as well as Funder's Alliance organizations, and a peer group of the [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials](#) (ASTHO) on behalf of the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health.

About ASTHO

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials is the national nonprofit association representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy and to ensuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

- The **African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council** is excited to announce the launch of the [You Don't Want That Smoke poetry campaign](#), an interactive experience featuring an online poetry contest and blog series.



Forward to Friend

State News

- In **California**, [San Francisco's public schools recently began trial against Altria](#) due to the company's large investment in Juul, which the schools say was core to Juul's strategy of hooking a new generation on nicotine and contributing to the vaping epidemic among youth.
- Cook County, **Illinois** Commissioner [introduced a proposal banning flavored nicotine products](#), to join the growing movement of statewide and local jurisdiction flavor bans.
- Two separate bills proposed in **Maine** [would ban all flavored tobacco products](#) statewide.

In the News

- R.J. Reynolds introduced [cigarettes that mimic menthol flavors](#) in California after the passage of the state law banning menthol cigarettes, as a method to circumvent the anticipated upcoming national menthol cigarette ban.
- British American Tobacco pleaded guilty to conspiring to violate U.S. sanctions by [selling tobacco products to North Korea](#) between 2007-2017 and will pay more than \$635 million to U.S. authorities.

- A George Mason University study, published in the *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, found that social media posts about the hazards of [secondhand smoke exposure to pets was the most engaging](#) among people that smoke. Posts containing information about how smoking hurts people they love and posts about hazardous ingredients also had higher engagement among smokers.
- Australia unveiled a plan to eliminate recreational e-cigarette use by [banning all disposable e-cigarettes and imports of e-cigarettes without a prescription](#), while also limiting nicotine levels in e-cigarettes used by smokers trying to quit.

Research

- A secondary analysis of Texas Adolescent Tobacco and Marketing Surveillance System data published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* found that lifetime or ever cigarette, e-cigarette, and cannabis use had an [increased risk of an earlier age of onset of depressive and anxiety symptoms](#).
- A *Tobacco Control* analysis of longitudinal qualitative data of 25 young adult tobacco users in California [identified three themes that related to successfully replacing cigarettes with ENDS](#) - perceived positive physical effects, perceived satisfaction and enjoyment and context changes.
- Analyses of cross-sectional online surveys of young people ages 13–24 years with retail sales data published in *BMC Public Health* found that the rapid and efficient method of coupling online survey data with retail sales data [provides a timely and effective approach for monitoring a quickly changing tobacco product landscape](#), particularly for states and localities where rapidly-available data is often not

available.

- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of veterans recruited for an online, longitudinal study concluded that [more frequent smoking at baseline was associated with steeper increases in depression symptom severity](#), and greater depression severity at baseline was associated with a less steep decrease in smoking frequency over time.

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