

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*

## 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:

- **Farrah Lesa (AS)** – 6 years

## Help Your Peers Requests

### Universal or Widely Accepted Definition of "Former Smoker"

**Deadline:** July 14

Virginia is curious if there is a universal or widely accepted definition of "former smoker." We have seen many variations of this definition and are curious what other states have settled on as a true definition.

### Grassroots Promotion of the quitSTART App

**Deadline:** July 21

Vermont will be piloting a grassroots promotion of the quitSTART app through our statewide free clinic network. We are curious if other states are utilizing this app and

*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

[Litigation 101: How the Court System Can Impact Commercial Tobacco Control Policy](#)

Webinar

July 25, 2 p.m. ET

| *Registration Required*

[State of Black Health National Conference](#) – The Center for

Black Health & Equity

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Sept. 6-8 | *Registration*

*Required*

[Clear the Vapor Conference](#) –

Parents Against Vaping e-

cigarettes

Virtual Conference

Oct. 24-25 | *Save the Date*

## Funding Opportunities

are interested in their experiences. Also, are there other apps that states are using that they would be willing to share their experience with us on?

#### **Leveraging Contracts with Local Governments for Tobacco-Free Environments and Nicotine Treatment**

**Deadline:** July 26

Have any organizations, particularly local units of government (e.g., county), leveraged their contracting process to ensure (require) that contractors of the local government have a tobacco-free grounds policy and/or have systems in place to help or connect their clients to nicotine treatment/quit resources? If so, would you be willing to share your experience (successes or barriers) with me?

## **Partner Announcements**

- The HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health [released a draft framework to support and accelerate smoking cessation](#), building on supports already in place for people who want to quit. HHS is seeking public input on the framework before it is finalized. **The public comment period will close on July 30 at 11:59 p.m. ET.**
- The following announcements are from **FDA**:
  - Brian King, director of FDA's Center for Tobacco Products (CTP), published [a statement summarizing the center's progress addressing the evaluation of CTP](#) by an independent expert panel facilitated by the Reagan-Udall Foundation. A comprehensive list of status updates for each recommendation is available at the updated web page, [Actions to Address Recommendations from the Reagan-Udall Evaluation of CTP](#).
- **Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids** relaunched their [online Take Down Tobacco Youth Advocacy](#)

*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](mailto:tcn@astho.org).*

### **Job Listings**

#### [Health Policy Specialist II](#)

Kentucky Department for Public Health  
Frankfort, NY

**Please apply by creating an account [here](#).**

#### [Chronic Disease Prevention Epidemiologist](#)

Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
Madison, WI

#### [Epidemiologic Surveillance and Evaluation Systems Coordinator](#)

Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
Madison, WI

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

UNC School of Medicine  
Chapel Hill, NC

### **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

[Training Program](#), a free, evidence-based program rooted in experiential learning geared toward middle and high school students to equip them with skills to create change in their communities and fight for the first tobacco-free generation.

- The following announcements come from **Truth Initiative**:
  - Truth Initiative released its latest [Tobacco Nation report](#), which analyzes geographic disparities in tobacco use, discusses the obstacles that limit tobacco policy change in these states, and proposes solutions to reduce geographic disparity in tobacco use across the United States.
  - Truth Initiative [discussed the tobacco industry's history of targeting the LGBT community with youth activists](#) gathered at the Capital Pride Festival.

## State News

- Governor John Bel Edwards of **Louisiana** signed into law a bill that will [increase the excise tax on e-cigarettes from five cents per milliliter of nicotine solution to 15 cents](#) and create a directory of all vape and alternative nicotine products authorized for sale in the state.
- An *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* analysis of male participants who registered with the **Oklahoma** Tobacco Helpline reporting dual use (smokeless tobacco and one additional combustible tobacco product), smokeless tobacco use only, and cigarette use only found that [eight or more weeks of nicotine replacement therapy was associated with tobacco abstinence](#) in men who reported dual use and exclusive smoking.

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.



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## In the News

- A woman from Wilmington, North Carolina [speaks out about underage vaping since her stepson's sudden death](#), just three weeks after his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## Research

- A probability-based panel study, published in *Tobacco Control*, concluded that [most youth were either unsure \(48.1%\) or did not think \(20.2%\) that nicotine in e-cigarettes comes from tobacco plants](#). Similarly, most were unsure (48.2%) or did not think (8.1%) that nicotine in e-cigarettes comes from other sources and there was low-to-moderate awareness of e-cigarettes containing synthetic nicotine (28.7%), with higher awareness among youth who use e-cigarettes (48.0%).
- A randomized *Tobacco Control* analysis of U.S. adults who vaped or smoked concluded that all newly developed warning themes (e.g., metals exposure, DNA mutation, cardiovascular problems, chemical exposure, lung damage, impaired immunity, addiction) [discouraged vaping more than the current FDA-required single addiction warning and led to greater negative affect](#), while the most discouraging warnings were about toxic metals exposure.
- In a recent systematic review published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*, [chronic exposure to low levels of lead, cadmium and arsenic](#), which are commonly used in commercial tobacco products causes an increased risk of cardiovascular disease.

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