

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

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News and announcements from the Tobacco Control Network

TCN Announcements

- **Join us for our TCN Office Hour Event: Federal Policy and Funding Updates on Wednesday, April 16, from 3-4 pm ET.** TCN members will have the opportunity to hear from ASTHO's federal government affairs team to discuss federal updates related to policy and funding for tobacco control programs. This event is open to any TCN member or partner. Registration is required. [Please register here.](#)

Help Your Peers Request

*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

For more Tobacco Control Network events and deadlines, please visit the [TCN Events](#) page!

State Tobacco Age of Sale Inspections

Deadline: April 23

The Rutgers Institute for Nicotine and Tobacco Studies Center for Rapid Surveillance of Tobacco (CRST) is collecting information related to state tobacco age of sale inspections. They would like to hear states' responses to the following questions:

1. Is your state still funded to do the inspections?
2. Is your state still doing the inspections? Which agency conducts the inspections in your state?
3. To whom is your state reporting data to? (e.g., SAMHSA, CDC?)
4. Do you have any insights on the role that OSH played (if at all) with respect to Synar/TASE surveillance?

Responses can be passed on directly to Kevin Schroth, schrothk@ints.rutgers.edu.

Happy Anniversary!

In the first newsletter of each month, TCN recognizes anniversaries of state and territorial tobacco program managers to

[It's About a Billion Lives Annual Symposium](#) – UCSF Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education
San Francisco, CA
April 11 | *Registration Required*

[2025 Tobacco Policy and Responsible Retailing \(“TPRR”\) Conference](#) – National Association of Attorneys General
San Diego, CA
April 22 – 23 | *Registration Required*

[Mindfulness Training for Smokers Facilitator Training](#) – Duke-UNC Tobacco Treatment Specialist Program
Online Training
May 6, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) – University of Kentucky
Virtual Training
May 7 | *Registration Required*

thank them for their leadership in tobacco control and public health more broadly. Thank you and congratulations to the following program managers:

- **Jennifer Ullman (MT)** – 16 years.
- **Allison Sullivan (CT)** – 3 years.
- **Rosemar River Hiraldo (PR)** – 2 years.
- **Jalyn Eanochs (MS)** – 1 year.
- **Siobhan Pappas (NJ)** – 1 year.
- **Sarah Wylie (OR)** – 1 year.

Partner Announcements

- **Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids** released two recent fact sheets:
1) [*Eliminating CDC's Office on Smoking and Health Will Undercut State Tobacco Control Programs and Increase Tobacco-Caused Death and Disease*](#) and 2) [*Support CDC and its Office on Smoking and Health: A \\$310 Million Investment To Protect Kids And Reduce Tobacco Caused Disease.*](#)
- Explore new updates to **ASTHO's [Menthol Capacity Building Site](#)**, your one-stop shop for

[Certified Tobacco Treatment Training Program](#) – The University of Texas MD Anderson Center
Virtual Training
June 9 – 13 | *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) – University of Kentucky
Virtual Training
June 25 | *Registration Required*

Job Opportunities

[Program Manager](#)
Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program
Helena, MT

[Virtual Coach - Preventative Services](#)
RVO Health
Remote

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

key resources addressing menthol tobacco use. The site features tools, state-specific insights, and access to expert-led discussions to support your program's menthol cessation efforts. New resources include Not Just Menthol (NY-specific insights), Framing Tobacco Disparities (guidance from ChangeLabs), and Undo (California DPH's myth-busting page on their flavor ban).

- The [National Conference on Tobacco or Health](#) convened by the **National Network of Public Health Institutes** is still on for August 26-28 in Chicago! If you have any questions about the conference, please get in touch with [Phil Wilbur](#) or [Chris Kinabrew](#) at NNPHI.
- **The Center for Black Health & Equity** will be hosting No Menthol Sunday (NMS) on May 18, its annual call to action that highlights the detrimental impact tobacco has on Black communities. Visit nomentholsunday.org to register your NMS event and access other resources.

Funding Opportunities

[Tobacco/Vape-Free College Program](#) – Truth Initiative

Deadline: April 24

The Truth Initiative Tobacco/Vape-Free College Program is offering grants of up to \$20,000 to colleges and universities to support the adoption and implementation of a 100% tobacco/vape-free policy. Grantees of the Tobacco/Vape-Free College Program receive guidance through webinars, an in-person training, and one-on-one consultations throughout the grant period. Since 2015, the Tobacco/Vape-Free College Program has provided funding to more than 220 colleges, universities, and college systems to advocate for and adopt a 100% tobacco-free policy.

[Quit & Thrive Challenge: Community-Derived Solutions to Reduce Menthol Cigarette Smoking](#) – ODP and CDC

- [In a unanimous decision](#), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the FDA followed the law in denying marketing applications for nicotine e-liquids with blatantly kid-friendly flavors.
- A recent **Truth Initiative** article highlights that while current teen e-cigarette use decreased from 2.13 million users in 2023 to 1.63 million in 2024, [young adults ages 18-24 now have the highest prevalence of e-cigarette use](#), and this age group is also reporting high rates of anxiety and depression.
- In a [recent blog](#), Rachael Joyner of the **Duke Smoking Cessation Program** addresses some of the top questions she gets about nicotine patches.

State News

- A federal judge upheld a **Utah** state law [prohibiting the sale of flavored e-cigarettes](#) (excluding tobacco and menthol), allowing the state to begin

Deadline: Sept. 2

ODP and CDC are sponsoring Quit & Thrive Challenge: Community-Derived Solutions to Reduce Menthol Cigarette Smoking to enhance the evidence base of interventions to help individuals from populations experiencing health disparities quit smoking, with a specific emphasis on menthol cigarettes. The Challenge encourages submissions from local and state organizations and agencies to highlight promising community-led solutions to address menthol cigarette smoking. Up to nine prizes of \$100,000 each will be awarded to organizations with the most successful or innovative community-led strategies.

If you know of any funding opportunities that would appeal to state and territorial tobacco control programs, please send

enforcing the law.

- The **Connecticut** legislature's Public Health Committee [approved a bill to increase the amount of Tobacco Settlement Fund proceeds](#) that must be annually directed to the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund to be used for tobacco prevention and cessation. The bill now moves to the House floor for consideration.
- The **Kentucky** legislature [passed a bill to require licenses for tobacco retailers](#), giving the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control inspection and enforcement powers over them. The bill now moves to the governor's desk for consideration.
- [H.2482](#) was introduced in **Massachusetts** to prohibit the sale of tobacco products on the internet.
- The **Nebraska** state legislature is [advancing a bill](#) that would define "alternative nicotine products" and "nicotine analogs" in state law and add a 20% wholesale excise tax on

those to us
at tcn@astho.org.

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.

alternative products, including oral nicotine pouches.

- [H5770](#) was introduced in **Rhode Island**, which would reduce the cigarette tax by 75% for any modified risk tobacco product.
- **North Carolina** lawmakers [introduced HB 430, which aims to raise the legal sales age of tobacco products to age 21](#) and to require a tobacco retail sales permit.

Research

- *An American Cancer Society* analysis of National Center for Health Statistics mortality data as a measure of progress in cancer prevention through tobacco control found that [approximately 4 million lung cancer deaths were averted during 1970–2022](#), with an average of 19.8 person-years of life gained per averted death.

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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