

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

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:

- **Gail DeVito (IL)** – 15 years.
- **Shellany Saimon (FSM)** – 1 year.

Help Your Peers Requests

Connecting with Rutgers Researchers on Confiscated Tobacco Products from

*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

Schools

Deadline: March 12

Researchers at the Rutgers Institute for Nicotine and Tobacco Studies have been collecting data on confiscated tobacco products from schools through the Center for Rapid Surveillance of Tobacco (CRST). The Rutgers team would like to connect with and establish partnerships with tobacco control staff who have relationships with school staff/administrators to learn more about the regional variability of brand availability and popularity of confiscated tobacco products. The Rutgers team can provide states with tailored information about tobacco products obtained from students in their respective states. If states would be willing to connect with the Rutgers team, we invite you to reach out directly to jessie.jensen@rutgers.edu.

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Cessation Services

Deadline: March 14

Several community based organizations have expressed the need for culturally and linguistically appropriate cessation services. We are working with them to learn more about the types of services that are needed and how we can work together

the [TCN Events](#) page!

[The Power of Incentives: Leveraging a Contingency Management Approach to Address Tobacco Use for Individuals with Mental Health and Substance Use Challenges](#) –

National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery (CoE-TFR) Webinar

Mar. 20, 2-3 p.m. ET

| *Registration Required*

[31st Nicotine Dependence Center Conference 2025: The Evolving Tobacco Landscape and Implications for Policy and Practice](#) – Mayo

Clinic Nicotine Dependence Education Program

Phoenix, AZ

March 27 – 29

| *Registration Required*

[Certified Tobacco Treatment Training](#) –

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Virtual Training

to build those services. If your team has explored, developed, and/or contracted with partners (other than your primary quitline vendor) to offer culturally and linguistically specific services for a community we would love to hear from you.

Partner Announcements

- The following announcements are from **CDC**:
 - A recent CDC *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* highlighted that during 2016–2023, supplementing reimbursement claims data with tobacco use information from Medicaid enrollment [identified 14,163 \(14.0%\) additional Medicaid members](#), including a higher proportion of men and those who did not have a diagnosed chronic condition.
 - CDC’s Office on Smoking and Health launched the 2025 Tips From Former Smokers® (Tips®)

March 31 – April 4
| *Registration Required*

[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*

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

Job Opportunities

[Head, Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch](#)
North Carolina
Department of Health and

Campaign. There will be nine Nicotine Replacement Therapy promotion weeks on English language TV during the weeks of March 17, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 7, August 4, August 25, and September 15.

- 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 Supporting Tobacco-free Recovery for Next Generation Thriving Heroes (STRENGTH) Community of Practice, led by the **National Behavioral Health Network for Tobacco and Cancer Control** and the **Disability Network for Tobacco Control and Cancer Prevention**, is an online group designed to help U.S. veterans with disabilities quit using tobacco. For more information and/or application

Human Services
Wake County, NC

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

[Tobacco Cessation
Coordinator](#)

Utah Department of
Health and Human
Services
Salt Lake County, UT

[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.*

Funding Opportunities

[Request for Grant
Application: Community
Innovations in
Commercial Tobacco
Control](#) – Arizona
Department of Health

assistance [email Katie Stone](#). To learn more and apply, complete [this form](#) by **March 18**.

- **NACDD's Disability Network for Tobacco Control and Cancer Prevention** is creating a campaign to empower people with disabilities to quit using tobacco products. Inspired by [CDC's Tips From Former Smokers](#), the campaign will highlight the real-life stories of people with disabilities. The Network is asking for [your help to recruit participants](#) for this important project.
- A recent **American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation** article shares that cruising is evolving to meet growing demand for healthier travel experiences and [smokefree policies are a part of the picture](#). Progress is being made, but passengers have a vital role in driving change by voicing their preference for 100% smokefree environments.”
- [NORC at the University of Chicago](#) is offering free program evaluation assistance to state and territorial health officials who need

Services

Deadline: April 17, 3 p.m.
local AZ Time

The objective of this Solicitation is to establish Grants with community organization(s) in the State of Arizona to provide commercial tobacco and electronic nicotine use prevention, education, and cessation services who primarily serve Arizonans most disproportionately impacted by commercial tobacco use, as outlined in the ATCP's Five Year Strategic Plan, 2022-2026. Ultimately, these funded entities will work with ADHS ATCP towards accomplishing its vision: an Arizona free of commercial tobacco use. To support organizations serving communities most disproportionately impacted by commercial tobacco use by developing targeted messages, programs, and collaborative partnerships.

help assessing the outcomes, effectiveness, impact, or value of a program, policy, or practice. Interested individuals should email ProgramEvalSupport@norc.org. Include a brief description of your program evaluation support needs, such as information on the program, policy, or practice that you wish to evaluate; the extent to which your team has begun planning or implementing the evaluation; and which steps of the evaluation could most benefit from assistance. The deadline to express interest is **March 28, 2025**.

- **North American Quitline Consortium** brings you a [free accredited lung cancer screening course](#) for tobacco treatment specialists through [Project ENGAGE](#). This course is designed to empower you with the knowledge and strategies needed to effectively educate your clients about lung cancer screening.
- According to a recent **Truth Initiative** analysis, [eight of the ten films nominated for Best Picture](#) at

[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

the 2025 Oscars® contain tobacco imagery.

State News

- The **Ludlow, Massachusetts** Board of Health adopted [regulations capping the nicotine content](#) in nicotine pouches to 9mg per pouch.
- Mayor Richard Bessen of Maui County, **Hawaii** signed into law Bill 156, which [prohibits the sale, distribution, and marketing of flavored tobacco products](#), including the mislabeling of products as nicotine-free, if and when a state law that preempts localities from regulating or restricting the sale and use of tobacco products is overturned or suspended.
- SB1307 in **Minnesota** would require all tobacco retailers in the state to [offer at least one type of nicotine replacement therapy product](#) for sale.

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

- AB762 would [prohibit the sale of all single use vapes](#) in **California**, and provides cities, counties and the state with the legal teeth to enforce that ban with fines starting at \$500 per violation.
- SB 54 [would cut \\$3 million from programs for tobacco prevention](#) in **South Dakota**, which is a 60% cut from \$5 million to \$2 million. On February 20, the Senate passed the bill and it now moves to the House for consideration.

News

- As of March 3, stock in Philip Morris International Inc. (PM) [reached an all-time high](#) of \$158.39 per share, with an 81.5% increase over the past year indicating investor confidence in the company's long-term growth strategies.

Research

- A randomized survey experiment, published in *Tobacco Control*, of California young adults who were

programs, please send 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

shown Instagram and TikTok videos, featuring influencers promoting e-cigarettes alongside healthy lifestyle activities (experimental), or a healthy lifestyle activity alone (control) concluded that participants in the experimental group were [more likely to report lower harm perceptions and higher susceptibility to e-cigarette use](#) than participants in the control condition.

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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