

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

[View this email in your browser](#)



News and announcements from the Tobacco Control Network

TCN Announcements

As we navigate a shifting landscape in tobacco control, the TCN Executive Committee encourages all members to take full advantage of one of our most valuable tools: the [2022 Policy Recommendations Guide](#). This comprehensive resource is designed to support state tobacco control programs by offering strategic guidance on both foundational and emerging policy issues. The guide explores critical topics such as:

- Preemption and its implications.
- The youth vaping epidemic.

*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!

- Taxation and pricing strategies.
- Tobacco-free environments.
- Endgame approaches for a tobacco-free future.

Whether you're addressing long-standing challenges or responding to new developments, this guide offers practical insights and evidence-informed recommendations to strengthen your policy efforts. The current version remains available on the TCN website under the [Resources](#) tab.

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:

- **Sharon Biggers (SC)** – 23 years.
- **Neil Charvat (ND)** – 11 years.
- **Jerilyn Oshel (IA)** – 11 years.
- **Paul Alee (RMI)** – 8 years.
- **Liz Johnson (TN)** – 7 years.

[Project TEACH ECHO](#) —

The University of Texas MD Anderson Center — Free hour of CE
Oct. 21 | *Registration Required, Bimonthly sessions*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist \(TTS\) Training](#) —

Rutgers Institute for Nicotine and Tobacco Studies
Virtual Training (self-paced also available)
Oct. 20-21, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. ET | *Registration Required*

[Champions for Youth Summit](#) —

Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth
Reston, VA
May 4-6, 2026
| *Registration Required*

[Intensive Behavioral Health Approaches to Tobacco Treatment](#) —

Duke Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training Program
Virtual Training/CE Short Course

- **Grace Bordallo (GU)** – 4 years.
- **Graciela Marrero Gerena (PR)** – 4 years.
- **Christina Thill (MN)** – 2 years.

Help Your Peers Request

NTCP NOA Questions

Deadline: October 15

The Arizona Department of Health Services received the Notice of Award (NOA) for the FY25 National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) grant and is reaching out with a few questions to learn how other states are approaching related requirements.

1. NTCP Budget Narrative Deadlines: Has CDC communicated a specific deadline for when the budget narratives for each component of the NTCP grant are due? If so, could you please share the timeline or any guidance you've received?
2. NTCP Program Materials Review and EOs: Our agency is currently reviewing program materials created by/for/with using federal NTCP

Nov. 19, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

Job Opportunities

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

[Tobacco Regulatory Science Small Grant Program for New Investigators \(R03 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) — NIH Office of Disease Prevention

Deadline: Nov. 18, 2025

This Notice of Funding Opportunity aims to support new biomedical, behavioral, and social science investigators who are in the early stages of establishing independent careers in tobacco regulatory research. The R03 grant mechanism supports different types of projects, including pilot

funding to ensure compliance with recent Executive Orders, including:

- [Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government](#)
- [Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets](#)
- [Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity](#)
- [Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing](#)

AZ interested in learning more about how other states are approaching this review. Specifically:

1. Has your agency received any guidance from CDC on how to address these compliance elements?
2. Do you have a list of terms or language considered non-compliant with the EOs, and if so, how are you updating or replacing them?
3. Are there any internal timelines you're following for this review process?

and feasibility studies; secondary analysis of existing data; small, self-contained research projects; development of research methodology; and development of new research technology. Applicants are encouraged to conduct projects that ultimately have the potential to inform regulations on tobacco product manufacturing, distribution, and marketing.

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.

About the Tobacco Control Network

The TCN's mission is to improve the public's health by providing education and state-based

Any insights, timelines, or best practices you can share would be greatly appreciated.

Partner Announcements

- The following announcements are from **Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK)**:
 - A [recent press release](#) by CTFK highlights the importance of not jeopardizing the scientific integrity of the review process required by Congress before new tobacco products can be introduced, especially as it relates to FDA's newest pilot program to streamline the review process for marketing applications for nicotine pouch products.
 - A [recent press release](#) by CTFK urges the Administration to implement a comprehensive and sustained approach, including rigorous enforcement and evidence-based public education campaigns to continue driving

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

down youth e-cigarette use.

- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
 - Truth Initiative [shares information for parents and educators](#) to understand how young people start using tobacco products and how nicotine addiction impacts the young brain so that parents and educators can prepare to have productive conversations with their students and children.
 - A recent Truth Initiative press release [shares that six leading public health and medical organizations are urging the FDA](#) to take immediate action to prevent tobacco giants R.J. Reynolds and Altria from illegally marketing new tobacco products in the United States without FDA authorization.
- As part of its broader strategy to combat the crisis of youth vaping, **FDA** is [launching an initiative to increase voluntary compliance](#)

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.



[Forward to Friend](#)

[from retailers](#) — including vape shops, convenience stores and gas stations — that play a key role in the distribution of both legal and illegal products into American communities.

- **The National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery** and the **Vermont Center on Behavior and Health** co-authored a [Quick Guide](#), designed to support professionals who prescribe and provide services to people with behavioral health conditions to address dual use, known as regular use of both combustible cigarettes and e-cigarettes.
- **North Carolinians for a Tobacco-Free Generation** [released a podcast episode featuring an interview with Dr. Jessica Young](#), a pediatrician and preventive medicine physician at UNC Chapel Hill, who shares what she sees in her clinic when it comes to youth vaping, how the products have changed, common misconceptions among parents, and the serious risks to adolescent brain and lung health.

- Become a credentialed Tobacco Treatment Specialist through **The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's [Tobacco Treatment Training Program](#)**. The program is a five-day virtual course focused on the skills needed to effectively deliver tobacco cessation treatment in both a clinic and community setting. Registration is open for our next session which will be held on December 8-12, 2025. Please [register](#) by November 14. If you have any questions related to the program, please visit their [website](#) or email ctts@mdanderson.org.

State News

- Santa Cruz County, **California** [announced that sales of cigarettes with filters will be prohibited beginning in 2027](#), now that two cities incorporated in the county passed similar ordinances.
- **CADCA** [released a blog post](#) which highlights a real-world example on how a local coalition used data to successfully pass the region's first

comprehensive smokefree policy in Williamstown, **Kentucky**.

News

- The Trump administration released a 20-page report, "[Make Our Children Healthy Again](#)." *NPR* subsequently [released a news story](#) about the fact that tobacco products and nicotine are not mentioned anywhere in the report.
- In a [recent commentary](#) published by *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, authors and members of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco Health Equity Network urge the scientific community and the public to take action to save the science of commercial tobacco-related health disparities.

Research

- *A Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of National Health Interview Survey concluded that veterans (7.9% of the sample)

had [higher odds of all current and former tobacco outcomes](#), with the highest adjusted odds ratios for current use of cigars, pipes, polytobacco use, and cigarettes, compared to non-veterans.

- An article published in *Tobacco Control* shares how the [tobacco industry co-opted Pride Month celebrations](#) to promote another addictive product to members of the community.
- A cross-sectional analysis of Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health Study data, published in *Tobacco Control*, [highlighted that the most prevalent tobacco product combinations](#) included cigarettes and smoked cannabis only among older adults, e-cigarettes and smoked cannabis only among young adults, and e-cigarettes and vaped cannabis oils/distillates among youth.
- *A Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of key informant (KI) interviews conducted with state personnel involved in minimum legal sales age (MLSA) implementation

from a purposive sample of states, found that [KIs reported engaging with model policy components during the implementation process](#), though states varied in their alignment with the model's recommendations, with areas of more common deviation including penalty structures, whether clerks or retailers were penalized, and required compliance checks.

Feel free to [forward this communication](#) or encourage others to [subscribe directly](#).

This message was intended for <<Email Address>>. If you believe this has been sent to you in error, please [unsubscribe](#) or [update your subscription preferences](#).

Our address:

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, 2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 450, Arlington, VA 22202

TCN@astho.org



