

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**

- The [TCN Forum](#) is a private online discussion and idea-sharing community, open to all state and territorial tobacco program staff, where you can tap into the expertise of tobacco control program staff from across the country! For more information on how to use the Forum's

*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.*

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### **Upcoming Events**

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

[Quarterly Media Network Call](#) —

Plowshare

Jan. 15, 2 p.m. ET | *Registration Required*

many features, please reference [this process document](#). Please contact [tcn@astho.org](mailto:tcn@astho.org) with any questions. [Sign up](#) for the TCN Forum to read more and engage in these discussions!

### 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:

- **Carol Cramer (KS)** – 25 years

[Tobacco Treatment in Adolescent and Young Adult Populations](#) — Duke-UNC Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training Program

Virtual Training/CE Short Course  
Jan. 20| *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — Rutgers Institute for Nicotine and Tobacco Studies

Virtual Training (self-paced option available)  
Jan. 26-27| *Registration Required*

[Project TEACH ECHO](#) – The University of Texas MD Anderson Center (Free hour of CE)

Jan. 27 and Feb. 3| *Registration Required, Bimonthly sessions*

[Tobacco Use Disorder Integration Office Hours](#) – National Council for Mental Wellbeing

Feb. 10, 2-3 p.m. ET | *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — Mayo Clinic

Virtual Training  
Feb. 10-12| *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Virtual Training

- **Tera Anderson (FL)** – 6 years
- **Elizabeth Cherry Mullens (OK)** – 4 years
- **Nicole Sinderman (MO)** – 2 years
- **Kymburle Gripper Sims (SC)** – 1 year

#### Partner Announcements

- A recent **CDC Foundation** [report](#) highlights updated trends in tobacco product use among youth and young adults in the United States from February to June 2025, highlighting the rising popularity of “smart” vapes, with more than one-third of youth and young adults who vape reporting using

Feb. 23-27 | *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — Duke-UNC Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training Program  
Virtual Training  
Feb. 23 and Mar. 3 | *Registration Required*

[The Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco \(SRNT\) Conference](#) - Baltimore, MD  
Apr. 4-7 | *Registration Required*

[Champions for Youth Summit](#) — Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth  
Reston, VA  
May 4-6 | *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — Mayo Clinic  
Virtual Training  
Jun. 23-25 | *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, MN (Hybrid)  
Aug. 18-20 | *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — Mayo Clinic  
Virtual Training  
Nov. 3-5 | *Registration Required*

one in the past month.

- The following announcements are from **FDA Center for Tobacco Products:**

- FDA authorized six nicotine pouch products made by Helix Innovations LLC and sold under the on! PLUS brand, the first decisions made under a new [pilot program](#) designed to increase review efficiency for nicotine pouch products. The [authoriz](#)

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

### [Health Systems Change Manager](#)

National Jewish Health

Remote, CO

## **Funding Opportunities**

Applications are now open for the 2026 [Youth Advocates of the Year Awards](#) scholarships, which honor outstanding youth advocates, emerging leaders and public health champions who are leading the way to the first tobacco-free generation. Honorees have encouraged their peers to be tobacco-free, taken on the tobacco industry and its deceptive marketing, advocated for tobacco prevention policies at the local, state and/or federal level, and urged their elected leaders to take action. The deadline to apply is Monday, Jan. 19 at 11:59pm PST.

*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).*

[ed products](#) come in tobacco and mint flavors and varying nicotine levels.

- FDA has issued a [Federal Register notice](#) announcing a roundtable discussion with small ENDS manufacturers on premarket application submissions, set to take place on Feb. 10 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. ET. The discussion aims to solicit input on premarket

### **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

tobacco product application (PMTA) submissions for ENDS products. Event details can be found [here](#).

- **Truth Initiative** released a [new report](#) that details how the tobacco industry continues to attract and addict kids with a variety of flavored, nicotine-loaded products, including high-tech “smart” vapes, nicotine pouches, and disposable e-cigarettes. Many of these products lack FDA authorization and are on the market illegally.

ensuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

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- **Monitoring the Future** released its [annual report for 2026](#), which provides a comprehensive look back at drug use trends for American secondary school students from 1975 through 2025.
- A new [fact sheet](#) from **SelfMade Health Network** shares recommendations and resources through community-clinical linkages for reducing lung cancer risks with food insecurity among low-income populations.
- The [newest publication](#) in **Trust for America's Health's *Promoting***

*Health and Cost Control in States (PHACCS)* report series highlights evidence-based policies and programs states can pursue to improve residents' health and reduce health care spending. Throughout the report, smoke-free policies and tobacco pricing strategies are highlighted as key opportunities, while barriers and strategies to implement these policies are analyzed.

### **State News**

- **Alaska** reached a [\\$5.8 million settlement](#) with Juul, ending a five-year lawsuit over

allegations it targeted young Alaskans with e-cigarettes. The proceeds will be split between the state's tobacco prevention and control programs and consumer protection efforts.

- The Amherst Board of Health in **Massachusetts** approved a [Nicotine-Free Generation](#) regulation which prohibits the sale of any tobacco products to anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 2005.
- The **New Jersey** Assembly passed a bill to [increase penalties for retailers](#) who sell tobacco products to

people under 21, and the measure now heads to the Senate for consideration.

- A [study of LGBTQ+ individuals](#) in **California** suggests that e-cigarettes may support reduced cigarette use during quit attempts when users have a clear intention to quit.

### News

- The Pan American Health Organization published a [comprehensive strategic plan](#) to strengthen tobacco control throughout the Americas through 2030, recognizing the enormous impact tobacco use has on non-communicable

disease deaths in the region.

- The [Associated Press News](#) reported on findings from the [Monitoring the Future survey](#), released in December, with teen nicotine pouch use trending upwards.

### Research

- A systematic review of 25 health warning label studies published in *Tobacco Control* found that [pictorial warning labels were more effective than text only warning labels](#) across several attributes, including stronger negative emotional

response to tobacco products.

- *A Nicotine & Tobacco Research* secondary data analysis of a medical center tobacco cessation treatment concluded that instituting the treatment as opt-out rather than opt-in [improved participation and increased perceived endorsement](#) of the treatment in the eyes of enrolled patients.
- An industry watch article published in *Tobacco Control* details the emergence of [new disposable nicotine vaping products](#) that allow the consumer to

adjust the nicotine content and/or flavor levels of the product, including sweetness. The authors note that this poses particular risk for nicotine-naïve consumers that prefer sweeter flavors.

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