

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

- ASTHO is working to maintain an up-to-date roster of current program manager contacts. If your contact information has changed, you're serving in an interim capacity, or you're aware of a vacancy in your state or territory, we'd appreciate your help in keeping us informed. Please reach out directly to TCN at tcn@astho.org or connect with your respective Regional Co-Rep on the [TCN Officers page](#) to share updates. Your partnership helps ensure we're communicating with the right folks at the right time. Thank you for helping us keep the roster

*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

accurate and current.

- As cessation work becomes more challenging in the current funding and technical assistance environment, there are federal and national partner resources available to maximize the reach and impact of your state infrastructure, such as:
 - [Smoking Cessation: A Report of the Surgeon General](#) published by HHS in 2020.
 - The [Cancer Center Cessation Initiative](#) launched by NIH to help cancer centers build and implement sustainable tobacco cessation treatment programs with their patients.
 - [State-specific quitline fact sheets](#) developed by NAQC thanks to support from ACS-CAN that estimate the funding needed for each state to implement all [six priority best practices](#).
 - The [ALA resource hub](#) on effective cessation coverage and health systems change.

and deadlines, please visit the [TCN Events](#) page!

[From Strategies to Funding: Sustaining Tobacco Cessation Through Health Systems Change, Medicaid Strategy and Return on Investment](#) — National Association of Chronic Disease Directors Webinar
Feb. 25, 1 p.m. ET
| Registration Required

[Culture as Catalyst: Youth Action to Take Down Tobacco](#) — Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids Webinar
Feb. 25, 7 p.m. ET
| Registration Required

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

Help Your Peers Requests

Coalition Building and Development

Deadline: Feb. 26

We are seeking information and resources in hopes of gathering input on coalition building or coalition work other states and organizations are doing. What strategies are being used to support ongoing engagement and recruitment plans, what is the structure and frequency of coalition meetings, and what do states recommend based on what works for them. What frameworks are being used to guide the development of coalitions, and if states are building off the CDC's best practices how are they tailoring those guidelines to their coalitions?

State-Specific Data on Social Media

Deadline: March 10

Have any states done research on local social media data? Know of social media data sets that can be localized? MA is looking to better understand youth access/exposure/purchasing/marketing/influencers, etc. patterns related to social media sites. We are looking have state-specific data.

Partner Announcements

[Challenges](#) — The National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery
Webinar
Feb. 26 @1 p.m.
ET| *Registration Required*

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

[Three Substances, One Conversation: Addressing Tobacco, Nicotine, and Marijuana Use in Youth](#) — American Academy of Pediatrics
Webinar
March 10, 1-2 p.m.
ET| *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — Rutgers Tobacco Dependence Program
Virtual Training

- **FDA Center for Tobacco Products** posted [materials](#) related to the modified risk tobacco product (MRTP) applications submitted by Swedish Match USA, Inc. for 20 ZYN nicotine pouch products. Public comments on these MRTP applications must be submitted to [Docket Number FDA-2025-N-0835-0001](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET on March 4.

- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
 - Truth Initiative highlights how the [tobacco industry's predatory targeting continues to intersect](#) with systemic inequities, leading to an urgent need for culturally responsive resources and policy-driven solutions.
 - Truth Initiative shares that the majority of e-cigarettes on the market, many of which are disposable, lower in cost, stronger in nicotine concentration, and bigger in volume, are [being sold illegally and pose a significant threat to public health](#) — especially for young people.

March 23-24
| *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — University of Kentucky BREATHE Online Training
March 25, 2026 | *Registration Required*

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

[2026 Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit](#) — The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Virtual Convening (add-on events available for [New Jersey](#), [Texas](#), and [Virginia](#); Continuing Education Credits available)
April 9 | *Registration Required*

- The Breath of Freedom Coalition, part of Truth Initiative’s Culture + Cessation Collective, [gathers community leaders in reclaiming the narrative around tobacco use](#) in Black communities. As we observe Black History Month, Breath of Freedom continues to equip individuals with the tools, education, and communal support needed to quit.
- **Action on Smoking & Health** published a [new report](#): *Making Tobacco Industry Elimination Inevitable: Communications Strategies to Reach the Tobacco Endgame*. Sample social media posts and graphics are available [here](#).
- The **National Association of Chronic Disease Directors** released its [Tobacco Resource Library](#), a new digital hub designed to support public health professionals in their efforts to reduce tobacco use and improve health outcomes.

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

[Request for Applications \(RFA\): Statewide Youth-led, Adult-guided Commercial Tobacco and Cannabis-Use Prevention Movement Among Maryland Teens](#) — Maryland Department of Health
The Maryland Department of Health is issuing an RFA to award one (1) agreement to an Applicant to support, enhance, implement and evaluate activities designed to support and expand CTPC’s existing statewide youth-led, adult-guided commercial tobacco-use prevention movement, “Take Back

- The following announcements are from **Public Health Law Center**:
 - Comprehensive tobacco retailer licensing ordinances include many evidence-based provisions drawn from authoritative sources. Public Health Law Center’s [latest resource](#) is a compilation of findings that provide factual support for these provisions, including national data.
 - Public Health Law Center released [a resource exploring how zoning can help limit the availability of tobacco products](#) and highlights examples of approaches taken by a few U.S. cities and counties.

State News

- **Oklahoma** puts its [tobacco settlement funds in a trust](#), spending only the interest. The strategy has had long-term public health benefits.
- HB 187 and SB 74, introduced by **Kentucky**, would [establish a](#)

Your 10,” whose mission is to prevent commercial tobacco use and emerging nicotine products amongst teens in Maryland to take back the potentially lost years of life.

The RFA is available for review on the eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (eMMA). Further information can be found within the solicitation. If your organization is not registered as a vendor on eMMA, the link to register as a vendor is [here](#).

Please see attached [Notice of Availability \(NOA\)](#) for additional information.

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

[vaping settlement trust fund](#), administered by the Attorney General, for the purpose of funneling all money received through litigation or other measures from Juul toward tobacco-cessation efforts.

- **Florida** Attorney General James Uthmeier [filed complaints against six smoke shops](#) for selling illegal nicotine products and for marketing the products to children.
- **Iowa** Governor Kim Reynolds announced she is [introducing legislation that would raise the state's tax on cigarettes](#) to \$2.01 per pack. She also recommended that the state implement a 15% tax on vaping products.
- A New Jersey Appellate Court issued a ruling in the lawsuit brought by casino workers and the United Auto Workers [seeking to end the smoking exemption](#) in Atlantic City casinos.
- [Musicians and hospitality staff](#) in Gallatin, **Tennessee** will now go to work every day knowing they have the guarantee of a smokefree workplace.

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](#)

News

- Children with co-occurring persistent pain and mental health symptoms face [higher risk for early substance use](#), but the strongest predictors of whether a child starts using alcohol, tobacco, or cannabis by age 14 are family environment and peer influence, a new University of Michigan study found.

Research

- *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* [intends to publish a themed issue](#) to highlight research that advances the understanding of tobacco-related health inequities and identifies ways to reduce them among people with disabilities. Manuscripts must be submitted through the Nicotine & Tobacco Research submission system by April 30.
- A Truth Initiative study published in *Tobacco Control* that analyzed leading U.S. combustible tobacco brand websites revealed [widespread use of promotional incentives](#) that encourage continued combustible product use, despite stated

[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

commitments to harm reduction by some manufacturers.

- A *Tobacco Control* study which analyzed Instagram posts from the main page and tagged sections of six leading tobacco brand accounts (Vuse, Lost Mary, ZYN, Velo, Lucky Strike, Winston) for compliance with Instagram, Federal Trade Commission, and Food and Drug Administration policies, concluded that [69.4% of posts contained URL links to commercial tobacco websites](#). Unrestricted access to tobacco content was observed among 46.7% of posts with 41.3% of posts had an age warning label.
- The share of nicotine sold in the combined e-cigarette and nicotine pouch markets attributable to nicotine pouches [grew dramatically from 0.6% to 37% between January 2017 and March 2024](#), according to a Truth Initiative study published in *Tobacco Control*.

policy and to ensuring excellence in state-based public health practice.



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