

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, please reach out directly to [tcn@astho.org](mailto: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.

*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

## Congratulations new Program Managers!

In the first newsletter of each month, TCN recognizes newly hired state and territorial tobacco program managers.

Congratulations to the following program managers:

- **Hilary Baker (KY)**
- **Catherine Sedergren (SC)**
- **Jennifer Like (OK)**

## 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)** – 16 years.
- **Shellany Saimon (FSM)** – 2 years.

## Help Your Peers Request

## State-Specific Data on Social Media

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

[State Tobacco Control Program Technical Assistance Meeting](#) — Truth Initiative & ASTHO Webinar  
Mar. 12, 3-4:30 p.m. ET  
| *Registration Required*

[Easy to Access, Understand, and Use: Does this describe your health department?](#) — NNPHI Webinar  
Mar. 17, 3-4:30 p.m. ET  
| *Registration Required*

[2026 No Menthol Sunday Kickoff](#) — The Center for Black Health & Equity Webinar  
Mar. 18, 12-1:30 p.m. ET  
| *Registration Required*

[Strengthening and Sustaining Public Health Partnerships Workshop](#) — Emory Community Approaches Training

**Deadline:** March 12

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**

- **CDC Foundation** released its [latest cigarette sales data brief](#) which provides estimates of combustible cigarette sales in the U.S. market overall and select U.S. states.
- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
  - According to [new Truth Initiative research](#), young adults who use e-cigarettes experience different challenges at various points on their quitting journeys.
  - Young individuals who use e-cigarettes who indicated they wanted to quit within the next

and Technical Assistance Hub Workshop  
Mar. 20, 2 p.m. ET  
| *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — Rutgers Tobacco Dependence Program  
Virtual Training  
March 23-24  
| *Registration Required*

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

[Tobacco Dependence Pharmacotherapy](#) — Duke TTS Training Program  
Virtual Training  
March 26, 12-5 p.m. ET  
| *Registration Required*

[Project TEACH ECHO](#) — The University of Texas MD Anderson Center - Free hour of CE  
March 31 | *Registration*

year were [more likely to agree that vaping nicotine can worsen feelings](#) of anxiety, depression, and stress, according to a new study from Truth Initiative.

- Truth Initiative and the NAACP [announced a partnership to address the tobacco industry's exploitation of Black communities](#) and empower individuals to quit through EX Program, a free digital quitting program that can increase the odds of quitting by up to 40%.
- Truth Initiative highlights how [e-cigarettes appeal to young people](#) because they are flavored, affordable, tech-forward, and easily concealed, among other factors.
- The following fact sheets from **Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids** are available:
  - [Increased Popularity of Nicotine Pouches Raises Concerns about Impact on Young People](#)

*Required, Bimonthly sessions*

[NCTOH Webinar Series \(Examining the Evolving Landscape of Tobacco Control\)](#) — NNPHI

Webinar

Apr. 1, 3-4 p.m. ET

| *Registration Required*

[The Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco \(SRNT\) Conference](#)

Baltimore, MD

Apr. 4-7 | *Registration*

*Required*

[Project TEACH ECHO](#) –

The University of Texas

MD Anderson Center -

Free hour of CE

April

7 & 21 | *Registration*

*Required, Bimonthly*

*sessions*

[2026 Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit](#) — The

University of Texas MD

Anderson Cancer

Center

Virtual Convening (add-

on events available

- [Flavored Tobacco Products Attract Kids](#)
  - [Flavored E-cigarettes Hook Kids](#)
  - [Anatomy of Addictive Technology: "Smart Vapes"](#)
- The **American Nonsmoking Rights Foundation** created a [new "buildable facts" poster about particulate matter](#) (including tobacco and cannabis smoke and vapor), and how it harms humans.
  - The **National Association of Chronic Disease Directors'** (NACDD) Disability Network for Tobacco Control and Cancer Prevention is working on phase 2 of its 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, including U.S. veterans, who have quit using tobacco products to inspire others to quit. [Help to recruit participants for this important project.](#)

for [New Jersey, Texas,](#) and [Virginia](#); Continuing Education Credits available)  
 April 9 | *Registration Required*

[NAQC Annual Meeting](#) — North American Quitline Consortium (NAQC) Virtual Meeting ([preliminary agenda](#))  
 April 15-16  
 | *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](mailto:tcn@astho.org).*

**Funding Opportunities**

[Request for Applications \(RFA\): Statewide Youth-led, Adult-guided Commercial Tobacco and Cannabis-Use Prevention Movement](#)

- **SelfMade Health Network** released a user-friendly fact sheet “[\*Increasing Broadband Access for Cardiovascular Disease Control and Commercial Tobacco Cessation\*](#),” which features multi-sector recommendations along with free resources available to support low-income populations and communities nationwide.
- The [Champions for Youth Podcast](#) from the **Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth** brings together educators, health experts, parents, and young people to discuss real solutions for the issues today’s youth face. Each episode highlights stories of resilience, innovative community programs, and actionable strategies that empower caring adults to support young people.

### State News

- [AB 762](#) in **California** would prohibit the manufacturing, importing, and sale of disposable e-cigarettes with non-removable batteries. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

### [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 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

- The following announcements are from **Illinois**:
  - [SB 3148](#) would prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco and nicotine products, including menthol cigarettes, flavored cigars, and any nicotine product that uses flavoring.
  - A bill was introduced that would [require producers of e-cigarettes to manage the disposal of the devices](#) through stewardship programs. Producers would also be required to finance the programs and inform consumers of their disposal option.
- **Michigan** Governor Gretchen Whitmer's FY 27 budget calls for [raising \\$232 million from tobacco products and \\$73.6 million from raising taxes on e-cigarettes](#) and non-tobacco nicotine products to stabilize Medicaid funding in the state.
- The Governor of **Nebraska** signed a bill that would [require licensure for the remote sale of tobacco products](#) and now allows for the

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 those to us at [tcn@astho.org](mailto: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

taxation of those products.

- The **Ohio** Supreme Court agreed to hear a case to decide whether state officials can [deploy Ohio's consumer protection laws to prohibit retailers](#) in the state from selling illegal tobacco products.
- The following announcements are from **North Carolina**:
  - The *Raleigh News and Observer* published an article explaining North Carolina's [recent and strict law over downzoning](#).
  - Law enforcement officers in Gaston County, NC say a [small device is creating outsized problems](#) inside local schools: THC vape pens.

### 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

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

disabilities. Manuscripts must be submitted through the Nicotine & Tobacco Research submission system by April 30.

- Some e-cigarette companies are selling products labeled as a “clear” flavor, a term that suggests no identifiable flavor. However, a [Truth Initiative analysis](#) published in *Tobacco Control*, shows that many of these products use widespread flavor and taste language in their online descriptions, which may increase their appeal for young people.
- *A Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of e-cigarette purchasing locations and associations with individual demographics found that the [most popular purchasing locations reported by adults who use e-cigarette were vape shops](#) while older and Hispanic adults were more likely to make online purchases.
- An analysis of Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health Study, published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, concluded that

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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both exclusive and dual-use smoking (e-cigarette and cigarette) [pose elevated risks of exposure to tobacco-related toxicants](#) to cancer survivors. Exclusive e-cigarette use also increases the risk of nicotine addiction and oxidative stress.

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