

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

- In celebration of National Public Health Week, Josh Berry at ASTHO appeared on [ASTHO's Public Health Review Morning Edition podcast](#) to talk about the importance of community partnerships in tobacco control and the challenges that tobacco control programs are facing since the elimination of the CDC Office on Smoking and Health last spring.
- TCN is seeking new members for the Membership Engagement Workgroup to help strengthen how we connect, support, and build capacity across

*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!

tobacco control programs. Led by the Membership Engagement Officer, this workgroup plays a key role in enhancing the overall TCN member experience. Responsibilities include planning member events, developing and disseminating member surveys, coordinating the Peer Mentor Program, and elevating member-identified challenges to the Executive Committee. The group also collaborates with the Healthy Communities Workgroup to support diverse recruitment and long-term member retention.

As a member of this workgroup, you will help advance key priorities focused on member engagement, onboarding, and connection, including:

- Expanding use of TCN resources such as the Forum, Peer Mentorship Program, “Help Your Peers,” and networking groups
- Launching a recurring “Resource of the Month” or “Did You Know” feature in TCN News to highlight tools and resources

[Tobacco Use and Cancer Prevention for People with Disabilities](#) — NACDD
Webinar
Apr. 23 & 30, 1 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[What to know about nicotine pouches](#) — Truth Initiative
Webinar
April 28, 3-4 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Getting Beyond "No"-Addressing Tobacco Use Treatment](#) — National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery (CoE-TFR)
Webinar
Apr. 28, 3 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Three Brothers, Three Journeys: A Family Conversation on Quitting Tobacco](#) — National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery (CoE-TFR)
Webinar
Apr. 28, 7 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

- Exploring and promoting strategies to strengthen regional collaboration and shared learning
- Establishing goals and reviewing engagement to better understand and improve member participation
- Supporting onboarding and knowledge transfer for new tobacco program staff

Help Your Peers Requests

Recent Research or Messaging Guidance on Vape Detection Systems

Deadline: May 1

The Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Tobacco Prevention and Cessation is developing an Anti-Vaping Toolkit for School Administrators. Schools throughout the state are increasingly considering or implementing vape detection systems, and the evidence base on their effectiveness and broader impacts appears to be limited. We are including this topic in the toolkit to help inform school decision-making.

[Tobacco Treatment Training Program](#) —The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Virtual Training
June 8-12 | *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — Rutgers Tobacco Dependence Program
Virtual Training
May 4-5 | *Registration Required*

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

[Project TEACH ECHO](#) – The University of Texas MD Anderson Center
May 5 & 19 | *Registration Required, Bimonthly sessions*

[Behavioral Health and Tobacco Product Use: Addressing Disparities.](#)

We are seeking any recent research or messaging guidance related to:

- Effectiveness of vape detectors in reducing youth vaping in schools
- Impacts on student behavior, discipline practices, and unintended consequences

If you have relevant studies, messaging, or lessons learned, we would greatly appreciate anything you can share.

Native Files for CDC Tips Campaign featuring Anne G. from Hawaii

Deadline: May 5

Do any other states have the native files for the CDC Tips campaign featuring Anne G. from Hawaii. We loved her ad and wanted to utilize the native video and/or print files for future dissemination. If anyone has these and are able to share them, we would sincerely appreciate that!

Partner Announcements

- **FDA** issued [draft guidance](#), “*Flavored Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) Premarket Applications – Considerations Related to Youth Risk,*” which addresses in general

[Improving Outcomes](#) — UCSF Smoking Cessation Leadership Center Webinar
May 5, 1-2 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Generation Tobacco-Free: Empowering Youth to Lead Change](#) — American Heart Association Webinar
May 12, 12-2 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[2026 Tobacco Policy Responsible Retailing Conference](#) — National Association of Attorneys General
Virtual Conference
May 12-13, 12-4 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

how much of an added benefit, compared to a tobacco-flavored e-cigarette, an applicant must demonstrate, via appropriate studies, for a flavored e-cigarette to be found appropriate for the protection of the public health. The public may [submit comments on this draft guidance](#) at regulations.gov to docket number FDA-2026-D-1817 by **May 11 at 11:59 p.m. ET.**

- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
 - The [design of e-cigarettes has drastically changed](#) over the past two decades: from boxy mods and tanks to pod-based products with “smart” features like Bluetooth connectivity and games. While their design continues to evolve, there are four basic components of e-cigarette technology that have persisted through the years.
 - Earth Month, recognized in April, provides an [opportunity to acknowledge an often-forgotten reason to quit](#)

[Funding and Training Opportunity for Tribal Communities](#) —

Smokefree Tribal Policy Initiative

Deadline: April 30, 2026

This new funding opportunity is designed to support Tribal communities in building capacity and advancing comprehensive smokefree policies within their sovereign jurisdictions.

Through this initiative, selected applicants will participate in a structured, two-day in-person Smokefree Tribal Policy Guide™ training. This experience is designed to help participants develop a tailored policy plan, identify implementation pathways, create a realistic timeline, and strengthen internal leadership and community support for policy efforts.

If you know of any funding opportunities that would appeal to state and

[vaping](#): the environmental cost of e-cigarette waste.

- Using multiple nicotine products, also known as dual or poly use (for two products or more than two, respectively) is [associated with greater nicotine dependence and increased likelihood of adverse health effects](#) compared with using one product.
- A new series of ads launched as part of Truth Initiative's national [Outsmart Nicotine campaign](#), highlights the troubling rise of multiple product use among young people and connects them to free quitting support through EX Program, Truth Initiative's proven-effective digital quitting program.
- **The Center for Black Health & Equity** launched the [No Menthol Sunday](#) (NMS) campaign for all to prepare for the observance day on **May 17**. As you prepare for NMS, The Center wants to understand how faith and community-led efforts are building momentum toward health

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 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

equity. Please [complete this brief survey](#) to gather insight on how to strengthen NMS.

- Applications are now open for the **APPEAL** National Leadership Training Summit, a 2.5 day program focused on building a vibrant movement in commercial tobacco control, cancer prevention, and health advocacy in Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. [Apply here](#) by **May 4**.
- The Communications Workgroup of the **National Partnership on Behavioral Health and Tobacco Use** developed a new educational resource: [a PowerPoint slide deck](#) that serves as a ready-to-use presentation tool and helps external presenters inform audiences about the harms of tobacco, share treatment resources for individuals with behavioral health conditions, and provide key references with credible citations.
- **Public Health Law Center's** [latest map provides jurisdiction-specific information for reporting violations](#) of

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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U.S. state and territorial tobacco control laws, including issues like underage sales, shipping via the U.S. Postal Service, selling unauthorized products, and more.

- **American Cancer Society** released the [US Tobacco Atlas](#), a digital scientific resource which offers comprehensive data and insights on tobacco use, tobacco control policies, and their impact across the country.
- **NACDD** invites State Tobacco Control Programs to participate in two multi-month Learning Collaboratives designed to strengthen tobacco cessation efforts within health systems and expand access to coverage. Participants will explore practical strategies, emerging trends, and real-world applications. [Register here.](#)
- In a recent video, the **Partnership to End Addiction** explains the [dangers of vaping for teens](#) and how high-tech e-cigarettes are designed to appeal to young users.

State News

- The following announcements are from **North Carolina**:
 - *WUNC FM* hosted tobacco control experts, including its own Cessation Director Kim Bayha, on a [recent episode](#) of “Due South,” focusing on the reduction in adult tobacco use, but the high levels of youth vaping.
 - The Department of Health & Human Services released a [blog post informing NC Medicaid Managed Care Plan providers](#) that the Jan. 1, 2027 deadline to take their campuses tobacco free has been delayed indefinitely.
 - In a recent North Carolinians for a Tobacco-Free Generation [podcast episode](#), Caroline Joyce, Executive Director of Parents Against Vaping E-cigarettes (PAVe), discusses how parents can play a key role in addressing the youth vaping epidemic.
- Public Health Law Center filed an [amicus brief](#) in *Ohio v. Central*

Tobacco supporting the **Ohio's** efforts to stop the sale of illegal flavored e-cigarettes.

- Governor Mills in **Maine** [signed into law a bill allowing grocery stores that are smaller than 26,000 square feet to sell tobacco products](#), carving out an exemption to a state law prohibiting stores with pharmacies from selling tobacco products.
- The **Virginia** legislature [passed a bill to create a statewide tobacco retail permit system](#), mandate age-verification technology, require ID scanning for under-30 purchasers, and restrict retailer proximity to schools/child-care facilities. The bill now moves to the Governor's desk.
- An **Iowa** bill that would have created exemptions in the state's Smokefree Air Act to allow cigar bars to operate with ventilation systems [failed to advance past a mid-session deadline](#) in the House Commerce Committee and was effectively defeated.

- **New Mexico** Attorney General Raúl Torrez [announced a lawsuit against major convenience store chains and distributors](#) for their role in selling flavored disposable e-cigarettes.
- Governor Kotek of **Oregon** [signed into law a bill expanding the statutory definitions of nicotine and tobacco products](#) to explicitly include synthetic nicotine and oral nicotine products and requiring retailers to comply with stricter packaging rules.

News

- According to a piece from *The Ankler*, [cigarette smoking is hip in Hollywood again](#), and the trend is spreading elsewhere.

Research

- *A Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of young adults who reported past 30-day nicotine or tobacco products (NTP) use found that [young adults with no reduced harm perceptions](#) (vs. those with

reduced harm perceptions) had a higher likelihood of reporting past-30-day NTP abstinence, exclusive cigarette use, or exclusive alternative NTP use, each compared to exclusive e-cigarette use.

- In a clinical trial, published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, where participants were randomized to very low nicotine content cigarettes or normal nicotine content cigarettes for 12 weeks, found that [study condition did not affect frequency of alcohol or cannabis use](#) among those reporting baseline use.

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