



# TRDRP

## Applicant Informational Webinar

### 2025 Core Call

**July 23, 2024**

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# Webinar Overview

## Programmatic Overview

- TRDRP's Mission
- Keys Dates
- Updates to 2025 Call for Applications
- Grant Types, and Scoring Criteria
- Key Guidance to Applicants

## Q & A (end of this webinar)

## Pre-recorded SmartSimple Application Overview

How to Submit a Proposal in SmartSimple (LOI and Full Application)

Recording are available on TRDRP website: <https://trdrp.org/funding-opportunities/>

# Tobacco Excise Tax Supports CA Tobacco Control

**1988 Proposition 99**

The Tobacco Tax and Health Protection Act



**2016 Proposition 56**

The California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act



Approx  
\$45M  
per year



**Research**

*Univ. of California*



**Prevention**

*CA Dept. of Education*



**Health Promotion/Treatment**

*CA Dept. of Public Health*

**TRDRP Mission:** *Transform tobacco taxes into cutting edge research to reduce commercial tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases while strengthening and informing the California tobacco control community for the benefit of our diverse populations.*

# Key Dates

Cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Core</li><li>• Community-Based Participatory Research Awards (CPPRA)</li><li>• Maternal Smoking Cessation Initiative (MSCI) Award</li></ul>
Call Opened	Monday, July 1, 2024
<b>Letter of Intent (LOI) Submission Deadline</b>	<b>Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 12 p.m. NOON PT</b>
Invitation to submit a Full Application Announced	Monday, September 9, 2024
<b>Due date for all Full Applications including resubmissions</b>	<b>Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at 12 p.m. NOON PT</b>
Applicants Notified	April 2025
Awards Start	July 1, 2025

# 2025 Call for Applications: **Key Changes**

- TRDRP's eligibility criteria have been refined
- Refined definition of tobacco-relatedness
- Application materials and review criteria for Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Award mechanisms have been substantially revised
- TRDRP is proud to offer the Maternal Smoking Cessation Initiative Award (MSCI)

\*Please note TRDRP templates are updated annually. Instructions/documents are found in SmartSimple which are provided once invitation to submit full application have been sent.

# Scientific Eligibility Criteria and Tobacco-Related Research **\*New Criteria for 2025\***

- TRDRP's eligibility criteria has been refined.
- Applications must incorporate nicotine and/or other constituents of commercial tobacco products in order to be deemed “tobacco-related” and eligible for TRDRP funding.
- Similarly, clinical, translational, or implementation studies must involve human subjects that have a history of commercial tobacco product use.
- Eligible studies must:
  - inform prevention of initiation of commercial tobacco product or
  - be informative or beneficial for current and prior commercial tobacco product users.

# Letter of Intent Eligibility Change

- Letters of intent (LOIs) for studies that are deemed non-responsive to the refined definition of tobacco-relatedness stated above will NOT be invited to full application.
- Some eligible studies may not be invited to Full Application if the study goals do not strongly align with TRDRP goals.
  - *For TRDRP Goals, please review pages 2 and 3 of the Core Call: Links to TRDRP Five Year Strategic Plan, TEROC plan and CA Endgame Initiative*
- LOIs resubmitted from the 2024 Cycle will be exempt from this new requirement for eligibility; however, they will be peer-reviewed and scored according to this revised definition of tobacco-relatedness.

# Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Awards

*Application materials have been significantly revised to better reflect the programmatic goals of these awards.*

## Postdoctoral

- 10 page research plan
- 4 page training plan
- Review Criteria
  - Criteria-1 (40%)
    - Tobacco-relatedness; Approach; Community Engagement Plan
  - Criteria-2 (40%)
    - Training plan; Applicant qualifications
  - Criteria-3 (20%)
    - Mentor's qualifications, Environment

## Predoctoral

- 6 page research plan
- 6 page training plan
- Review Criteria
  - Criteria-1 (50%)
    - Training plan; Applicant qualifications
  - Criteria-2 (30%)
    - Mentor's qualifications, Environment
  - Criteria-3 (20%)
    - Tobacco-relatedness; Approach; Community Engagement Plan



# Maternal Smoking Cessation Initiative Award (MSCI)



- Prioritizes research dedicated to developing, implementing, and evaluating culturally-tailored commercial tobacco cessation interventions specifically designed to improve health outcomes for pregnant individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), American Indians, and Alaska Native (AIAN).
- The core objective is to cultivate sustainable interventions that effectively address the unique needs and challenges faced by these populations.

# Current Research Priorities

- Research questions in support of the Endgame Policy Platform (Appendix A of Core Call for Applications)
- Social and behavioral prevention and treatment
- State and local tobacco control policy research
- Tobacco related diseases
  - Cancer treatment and biology\*
  - Cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases
  - Oral diseases and dental health\*
  - Pulmonary biology and lung diseases
  - Other tobacco-related health effects
- Environmental exposure and toxicology
- Neuroscience of nicotine addiction and treatment
- \*\*Maternal and fetal Impacts of Smoking

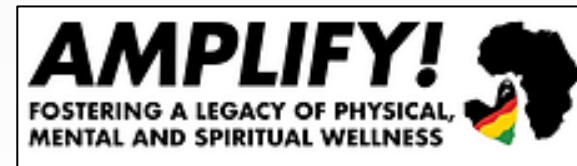
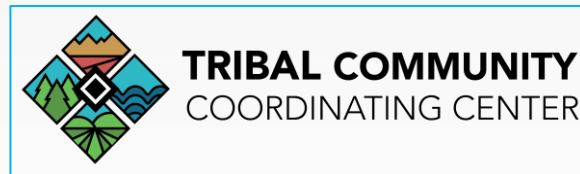
*\*Lung cancer research should focus on diseases that are strongly correlated with tobacco product use, i.e. small cell lung cancer (SCLS).*

*\*Research on Oral Cavity and Pharyngeal Cancers should focus on diseases that are strongly correlated with tobacco product use (i.e. Human Papilloma Virus-negative cancers)*

*\*\* New Research Priority*

# Community Engagement

- A community engagement and communications plan is expected to be integrated into all Core award mechanisms at a level appropriate to the type of research being proposed
- Scientific Meetings ≠ Community Engagement
- Include physically distanced, contract-free, or virtual options
- Funds may be included in the project budget
- Review Appendix E of 2025 Core Call for examples



# TRDRP Grant Types: Independent Research

Grant Mechanism	Maximum Award/Year (Direct Cost)	Maximum Award Duration (Years)	Purpose of Award
Research Award	\$300,000	3	To conduct research based on preliminary data that will achieve or advance work of high impact within one or more stated research priorities
Pilot Award	\$250,000	2	To gather preliminary data or demonstrate proof-of-principle with potential for high impact within one or more stated research priorities
New Investigator Award	\$200,000	3	To support and enable new investigators to initiate an independent research program with potential for high impact within one or more stated research priorities

# Scoring & Review Criteria

## Research Award; Pilot Award; New Investigator Award

- Standard NIH scoring system that is based on the 1-9 scale
- Each application is scored on these criteria:

### Criteria Set-1 (30% scoring weight)

- Responsiveness to intent of the award type
- Tobacco-relatedness
- Innovation

### Criteria Set-2 (50% scoring weight)

- Significance
- Approach
- Near-term leveraging potential (Pilot & New Investigator Awards)

### Criteria Set-3 (20% scoring weight)

- Investigators (New Investigator Awards: status & research team)
- Environment
- Community engagement

*See Appendix E of the 2025 Call for Applications for detailed instructions to assist applicants in communicating clearly with peer reviewers*

# TRDRP Grant Types: Postdoctoral Award

Grant Mechanism	Max Stipend /Year	Institutional Allowance* /Year	Max Award Duration (Years)	Purpose of Award
Postdoctoral Award	Up to \$70,000 at least 75% effort	\$38,000	3	Support the mentored training of postdoctoral investigators with clear and direct commitment to and potential for contributing to the advancement of one or more stated research priorities.

*\*to help defray the cost of expenses such as health insurance, medical liability or other special insurance, research supplies, equipment, courses and educational materials, project related travel, and travel to scientific meetings*

# Scoring & Review Criteria: Postdoctoral Award

- Standard NIH scoring system that is based on the 1-9 scale
- Each application is scored on these criteria:

## Criteria Set-1 (40% scoring weight)

- Tobacco-relatedness
- Approach
- Community Engagement Plan

## Criteria Set-2 (40% scoring weight)

- Training Plan
- Qualifications of the applicant

## Criteria Set-3 (20% scoring weight)

- Mentor's qualifications and commitment
- Environment

*See Appendix E of the 2025 Call for Applications for detailed instructions to assist applicants in communicating clearly with peer reviewers*

# TRDRP Grant Types: Predoctoral Award

Grant Mechanism	Max Stipend /Year	Institutional Allowance* /Year	Max Award Duration (Years)	Purpose of Award
Predoctoral Award	Up to \$60,000 at least 75% effort	\$4,400	3	Support the mentored training of predoctoral students with clear and direct commitment to and potential for contributing to the advancement of one or more stated research priorities.

*\*to help defray the cost of expenses such as health insurance, medical liability or other special insurance, research supplies, equipment, courses and educational materials, project related travel, and travel to scientific meetings*  
*Note: Predoctoral applicants may budget for full tuition and fee costs up to \$50,000, consistent with relevant collective bargaining agreements. Documentation should be included in the budget justification.*



# Scoring & Review Criteria – Predoctoral Award

- Standard NIH scoring system that is based on the 1-9 scale
- Each application is scored on these criteria:

## **Criteria Set-1 (50% scoring weight)**

- Training plan
- Qualifications of the applicant

## **Criteria Set-2 (25% scoring weight)**

- Mentor's qualifications and commitment
- Environment

## **Criteria Set-3 (25% scoring weight)**

- Tobacco-relatedness
- Approach

*See Appendix E of the 2025 Call for Applications for detailed instructions to assist applicants in communicating clearly with peer reviewers*

# Review Criteria

## Other Considerations

- Budget: Appropriate level, overlap and out-of-state expenses
- Protection of Human Subjects from Research Risk
- Inclusion of Women, Minorities and Children in Research
- Care and Use of Vertebrate Animals in Research
- Biohazards

# Key Guidance to Applicants

- ***LOI Submission Deadline:***
  - **Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 12 p.m. NOON PT**
- ***Invited Application Due:***
  - **Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at 12 p.m. NOON PT**
- LOI are required for ALL applications
- Please review TRDRP *\*new\** eligibility criteria and definition of tobacco-relatedness
- Contact [trdrp@ucop.edu](mailto:trdrp@ucop.edu) with any questions

