



**2027 Smoke- and Vape-Free Scholars Initiative
Program Awards
Request for Applications**

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I. Initiative Purpose

To achieve a commercial tobacco-free California requires approaches that are tailored to communities, especially those with the highest continued tobacco use rates. The goal of this initiative is to stimulate student enthusiasm for tobacco-related research and foster engagement and persistence of the next generation of researchers who represent the different tobacco priority populations. Tobacco priority populations in California are those who are disproportionately targeted by the tobacco industry, use tobacco at higher-than-average rates, experience greater exposure to secondhand or thirdhand smoke and vape aerosol, and/or have higher rates of tobacco-related disease. Tobacco in this document refers to commercial nicotine and tobacco products that are manufactured and sold for profit, not traditional tobacco that is used for religious, ceremonial, or healing purposes.

It is critical that members of tobacco priority populations participate in and drive the research that will inform how best to reduce the negative impacts of nicotine and tobacco use in their social, cultural, and geographical environments. Educating youth and young adults in such communities on the conduct of research builds capacity to end the commercial tobacco epidemic in their communities and in California as a whole.

To help develop a pipeline of dedicated tobacco control researchers and advocates, the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) Smoke- and Vape-Free Scholars Initiative (SVFSI) will support California State Universities and California Community Colleges, in partnership with doctorate-granting institutions, to administer mentorship and training programs for any undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and master's degree students, and particularly those from tobacco priority populations, to conduct mentored tobacco-related research, while also participating in local tobacco control projects and other educational activities.

SVFSI Planning awards are not offered during the 2027 Cycle.

II. Award Mechanism: Program Award

TRDRP invites proposals from administrators, faculty, and staff at California State Universities (CSUs) or California Community Colleges (CCCs) to partner with California doctorate-granting institutions to provide mentorship and research training experiences for undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and master's-level students interested in research topics relevant to tobacco priority populations. Funds will be awarded competitively to support student research internships as well as other collaborations or activities that serve the goals of the initiative.

This is a four-year award to support CSU/CCC institution(s) to provide an overall educational theme relevant to tobacco control issues, mentorship in tobacco control for CSU/CCC students, and to provide scholarly research experiences at a partner doctorate-granting institution. Funding for research internships may support laboratory, environmental, social, economic, and policy research, literature reviews, social science data analysis, historical research, or other research training activities. The Program Awards require a partnership between at least two institutions. The **CSU/CCC institution** must be a member of the CSU or CCC systems, and the **research institution** must be a California authorized doctorate-granting institution.

III. Key Dates

Event	Date
2027 SVFSI Call Release	July 1, 2026
Applicant Webinar (registration link)	July 15, 2026, 1:00 – 2:00 pm PT
Letter of Intent Deadline	August 20, 2026, 12:00 pm (noon) PT
Invitation to Full Application Announced	September 8, 2026
Application Deadline	October 29, 2026, 12:00 pm (noon) PT
Notification of Review Outcome	April 2027
Award Start Date	July 1, 2027

IV. Resources for SVFSI Awards

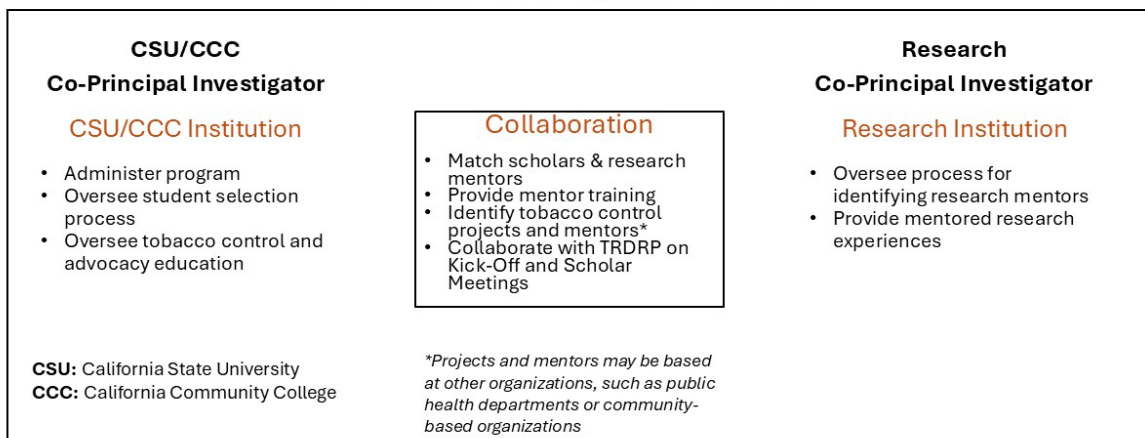
TRDRP provides resources on its website that applicants may use to augment their SVFSI Programs (<https://trdrp.org/our-impact/svfsi-resources.html>).

V. SVFSI Program Awards Outline

All Program Awards will be a partnership between at least two institutions: a CSU/CCC Institution (see [V.1.A](#)) and a Research Institution (see [V.1.B](#)). Awards will be made as a partnered award, with the CSU/CCC institution and the research institution as co-funded, Applicant Co-Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator partners, each managing their own budget. Additional institutions can participate as collaborating institutions, with funds distributed to them through a subcontract from one of the two budgets.

The SVFSI Overview of Program Awards graphic provides an outline of the basic program components (see [V.2. Program Award Components](#) below for more detail).

Smoke and Vape Free Scholars Initiative Overview of Program Awards



The primary functions of the CSU/CCC institution are to provide an administrative home for the program, oversee the process for selecting students that will become SVFSI Scholars, and oversee the tobacco control/advocacy components of the program. The primary function of the research institution is to recruit research mentors and to provide mentored research experiences for the SVFSI Scholars.

Applicants are required to submit cross-institutional, collaborative programs that:

- Describe an overall theme for the program that is relevant to tobacco control issues for one or more priority population(s) at the CSU/CCC, in the local community, or in the State of California. The theme is intended to attract CSU/CCC students to the SVFSI Program by providing them with a perspective on how tobacco use impacts their lives and their communities.
- Present a strategy for recruiting and selecting students, and particularly those who are members of tobacco priority population(s), who may identify with the program theme to become members of the cohort of SVFSI Scholars (see section [V.2.B](#))
- Identify research mentors at the research institutions
- Identify tobacco control/advocacy mentors and projects from tobacco control organizations, community organizations, or public health agencies
- Provide scholars with tobacco control/advocacy educational experiences
- Provide research internship experiences for 15 scholars to conduct 6 to 12-month tobacco-related research projects over 4 years
- Match scholars with mentors
- Coordinate with TRDRP to host yearly kick-off events and scholar meetings where scholars give scientific presentations, share their experiences, and network.

Although each institution has designated primary functions as shown in the graphic above, applicant teams may utilize existing resources at either institution to achieve program goals. For example, although the tobacco control educational activities are in the purview of the CSU/CCC, some activities may actually take place at the research institution if that institution has an existing lecture series relevant to tobacco control. Similarly, CSU/CCC institutions with existing tobacco-related research programs may provide some of the research experiences for the SVFSI Scholars. Applicant teams are encouraged to design programs that leverage the strengths and resources of both institutions.

1. Eligibility

Mentorship and training programs funded by the SVFSI Program Award must be based at an eligible CSU/CCC Institution (see [V.2.A](#)).

A. Eligible CSU/CCC Institutions

Each SVFSI Program application will include a partnership with at least one **CSU/CCC institution** that is a member of the California State University (CSU) System or the California Community College (CCC) System, and a **research institution** that is a California authorized doctorate-granting institution. To be eligible, the proposed program must include a partnership between the CSU/CCC and research institutions.

Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with additional CSUs and CCCs in order to provide broader access to candidate students. With justification, some of the students may also be recruited from the partner research institution and/or collaborating research internship institution(s).

B. Eligible Research Institutions

Each SVFSI Program application will include a partnership with at least one research institution that is a California doctorate-granting university that is able to provide mentored research internships for the SVFSI Scholars.

Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with additional universities/research institutions that engage in tobacco-related research to expand the pool of possible research internships. Please note, only California not-for-profit organizations are eligible for TRDRP funding under the SVFSI award type.

C. Eligible Tobacco Control/Advocacy Project Institutions

Tobacco control and advocacy project activities may take place at institutions that have and enforce tobacco control policies, such as the CSU/CCC and Research Institutions, a local tobacco control organization, or other local organization such as a school or clinic. These projects may also involve activities with local legislators working on tobacco control policies or other tobacco control advocacy projects.

2. Program Award Components

A. Program Administration

Each program must include the following administrative roles. Project personnel may perform more than one administrative role.

CSU/CCC Co-Principal Investigator

Each SVFSI Program application will be submitted by a Co-Principal Investigator from a CSU or CCC institution (**CSU/CCC Co-PI** and *Applicant Principal Investigator in the SmartSimple grants management system*). The CSU/CCC Co-PI will partner with a **Research Co-PI** (*Co-Principal Investigator in SmartSimple*) from a doctorate-granting research institution to develop and coordinate the SVFSI Program. The CSU/CCC Co-PI may be a full-time faculty member or hold another appropriate position that allows them to effectively co-design and administer the program. The CSU/CCC Co-PI will have primary responsibility for all programmatic and administrative aspects of the SVFSI Program Award, including adherence to TRDRP budgetary, policy, reporting, and program assessment requirements.

Research Co-Principal Investigator

Each SVFSI Program application will include a partner on the award as a **Research Co-PI** from a Research Institution that awards doctorate degrees. (see [V.1.B](#)). The Research Co-PI will:

- i. Coordinate the research internships for the scholars
- ii. Manage recruitment of research mentors at all participating institutions
- iii. Collaborate with the CSU/CCC Co-PI
- iv. Collaborate with the Scholar Recruitment Coordinator

- v. Collaborate with the Scholar Support Coordinator on implementing, evaluating, and improving mentoring, selecting SVFSI Scholars and providing support activities for the SVFSI Scholars (see [V.2.F](#)).

The following administrative functions may be performed by the **CSU/CCC Co-PI** and/or **Research Co-PI**, if they have the appropriate expertise. Alternatively, those functions may be performed by additional personnel from the two main partner institutions or from other institutions. Project personnel may perform more than one administrative function.

Scholar Recruitment Coordinator

Applicants are required to name in their application an outreach expert who is knowledgeable and skilled in recruiting students, and particularly those from tobacco priority population(s). This individual does not have to be employed by the CSU/CCC Institution and can be recruited from a different institution or the community. The Scholar Recruitment Coordinator may be someone with experience working with people from tobacco priority populations, has direct experience within the community, or has existing or demonstrated relationships that enable access to the community. The Scholar Recruitment Coordinator will implement and continually improve the culturally appropriate student recruitment approaches, and will be involved in co-managing the mentoring activities (see [V.2.F](#)).

Scholar Support Coordinator

Applicants are required to name in their application a team member who is knowledgeable and skilled in supporting students, and particularly those from tobacco priority population(s) (see [V.2.B](#)). This team member will implement a culturally appropriate scholar support program and will be involved in managing the other mentoring activities (see [V.2.F](#)).

Tobacco Control/Advocacy Project Coordinator

Each program will identify a team member who will recruit tobacco control/advocacy mentors and who will coordinate tobacco control/advocacy project assignments (see [V.2.D](#)) for the scholars supported by the program.

Educational Activities Coordinator

Each SVFSI Program will identify a team member who will manage the education enhancement activities and ensure that the SVFSI Program theme is incorporated in the educational activities (see [V.2.E](#)).

B. Scholar Recruitment and Selection

SVFSI Programs will develop a Scholar Recruitment Plan that aligns with the theme of the overall program and is focused on tobacco control issues(s) for priority population(s). The Scholar Recruitment Plan will include the identification of a potential cohort of undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and/or master's students who will be working on topics of high relevance to tobacco priority populations in California.

Tobacco priority populations in California are those that use tobacco at higher rates, experience greater secondhand smoke exposure, are disproportionately targeted by the industry, and/or have higher rates of tobacco-related disease. Applicants may identify priority populations by applying

this definition or using other health disparity indicators. A rationale must be provided for all students included in recruitment efforts.

There is a need to build capacity to end the commercial tobacco epidemic through the empowerment of youth and young adults to take on meaningful roles in tobacco prevention and control. SVFSI Program partners will develop criteria by which to recruit students for the program. The Scholar Recruitment Plan will describe the strategy for using the criteria to recruit students. Plans should also describe strategies for encouraging students from tobacco priority populations to apply.

Although this initiative is designed to enhance the participation of members of tobacco priority populations in research, TRDRP recognizes that applicants will adhere to their institution's rules when recruiting scholars. In accordance with state and federal law, preference will not be given to scholars based on race, color, ethnicity, gender, or national origin.

C. Research Internships

Each funded SVFSI Program should be designed to support 15 scholar research internships over a period of up to 4 years. The research internship projects must be tobacco-related and must address one or more of TRDRP's research priorities:

1. Research questions in support of the [CA Endgame Initiative](#)
2. Social and behavioral prevention and treatment
3. State and local tobacco control policy research
4. Tobacco-related diseases
 - a. Cancer health disparities
 - b. Cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases
 - c. Oral diseases and dental health
 - d. Pulmonary biology and lung diseases
 - e. Other tobacco-related health effects
5. Environmental exposure and toxicology
6. Neuroscience of nicotine addiction and treatment
7. Maternal and fetal impacts of smoking

Research internships must be a minimum of six months. The months spent on internship research do not have to be contiguous, but a research segment must be at least three months long. For example, a six-month internship may be designed as two three-month research segments over two summers. Applicants should detail the optimal research internship period for scholars and the timeline for their proposed program and recruited scholars.

A research mentor has to be a faculty member at the research institution or an independent researcher at other organizations that engage in tobacco-related research projects.

D. Tobacco Control/Advocacy Projects

Each scholar is expected to participate in a tobacco control or advocacy project, under the supervision of a tobacco control mentor. The tobacco control mentors must be engaged in relevant activities, such as developing and enforcing local tobacco control policies,

disseminating tobacco control messages or interventions to tobacco priority populations, communities, or working with legislative staff on tobacco-relevant policies. The choice of tobacco control/advocacy institution and projects should meaningfully contribute to the overall goals of the initiative. Scholars who engage in biomedical research may participate in social behavioral (e.g., tobacco use prevention and treatment) or tobacco policy projects, for this component.

E. Educational Enhancement Activities

SVFSI Programs will provide auxiliary educational activities to scholars, which should be developed as a collaborative effort between the CSU/CCC Co-PI and the Research Co-PI. The educational activities should cover the tobacco control issues highlighted in the program theme.

- i. Examples of educational activities include a seminar series, supplementary courses, or specialized workshops, which should prepare scholars to conduct scientific research during their research internships and provide context for tobacco control-relevant issues through courses on the subject. Scholars should also be encouraged to present their research internship and tobacco control projects to peers and others beyond the SVFSI Scholar Meeting that will be organized in collaboration with TRDRP.
- ii. SVFSI Programs will develop a plan for advising their scholars on their career paths and pursuing further educational opportunities beyond the scholarship.
- iii. This initiative intends to provide students with an overview of a broad range of topics relevant to tobacco prevention, treatment, policy, and research. Programs are encouraged to collaborate on and share educational materials among all SVFSI Programs and all scholars.

F. Mentoring Activities

To ensure productive and mutually beneficial mentor-mentee relationships and to foster the development of students' ability to emerge as tobacco-related research and advocacy professionals, mentoring activities should be developed in close collaboration between the CSU/CCC Co-PI and the Research Co-PI and their institution(s). The goal is to ensure that interactions between mentors and mentees are culturally sensitive and that students are well-prepared to embark on a research career.

i. Mentor Training

To increase mentoring knowledge and skills for mentors, SVFSI Programs will establish a Mentor Training Plan that includes general mentor training and training tailored to emphasize mentoring for CSU/CCC students in general, as well as for tobacco priority population(s) that comprise the SVFSI Scholar cohort.

ii. Scholar-Mentor Matching

Each program will propose an approach for matching scholars and mentors that maximizes their scientific, personal, and cultural alignment.

iii. Scholar Mentoring and Support

Programs must provide a Scholar Mentoring and Support Strategy that describes how scholars will be advised, supported, and assessed throughout their scholarship period. Such strategies might include individual faculty sponsors at the CSU/CCC institutions, individual mentoring committees with participation of the research and tobacco control mentors, or other

arrangements that provide support and guidance for the scholars. The Scholar Mentoring and Support Strategy should also include mechanisms for mediating issues that may arise between scholars and mentors. To set clear expectations, each scholar /mentor pair is expected to develop a Mentoring Agreement or Compact, where each agrees to their goals, expectations, and commitments during the period they work together. Each scholar is expected to be guided by an Individual Development Plan that focuses on paths to achieving the short- and long-term career plans of the scholar and is developed by the scholar in collaboration with the mentor and others involved in supporting the scholar.

G. Program Evaluation

Each SVFSI Program will develop a Program Evaluation Plan for tracking and evaluating the program's outcomes, including collecting feedback from the scholars and mentors on their experiences. This will help the program adjust its approach, if needed, and help TRDRP assess the successes and needed improvements to the SVFSI Program. TRDRP also encourages the different funded programs to collaborate on process and outcome/impact evaluation efforts.

3. Award Overview

A. Maximum total award amount: \$1,150,000 (direct costs)

B. Maximum duration of Program Award: 4 years

- The first year *may* be dedicated to developing and initiating the program, and it *may* also include placement of SVFSI Scholars in research internships (Year 1)
- Placement of SVFSI Scholars in research internships (Years 2-4)

C. Number of budgeted scholars per award: 15 scholars (e.g., 5 scholars per year for 3 years). The yearly number of scholars can vary, and the actual number of scholars may exceed 15 over the course of the award.*

D. Budget: SVFSI Program Awards are partnered awards. Each institution that is a partner in the program must complete a budget.

E. Travel:

- **Project-related travel:** Budget as needed for the CSU/CCC Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) and Research Co-PI (must be fully justified)
- **Travel to TRDRP Event:** \$750 for the CSU/CCC Co-PI and \$750 for the Research Co-PI, as well as \$750 for each of the 15 scholars.
- **Scientific conference travel:** maximum of \$2,000 per year for the CSU/CCC Co-PI and \$2,000 per year for the Research Co-PI

F. Allowable direct costs for key personnel, research mentors, tobacco control/advocacy mentors: Salaries, fringe benefits, supplies, project-related travel, including TRDRP-organized events

G. Allowable direct costs for scholars: stipend, tuition & fees, health insurance, room & board for temporary relocation, other (childcare, elder care, etc.), project-related supplies, project-related travel, including TRDRP-organized events. NOTE: TRDRP expects that scholars will be able to keep any tangible purchases made with scholar funds.

The **maximum amounts** for each category are listed in the Award Table below. In the application budget, approximate the needed scholars' funds. The exact funds for scholars will be negotiated with TRDRP each year, based on the number of scholars recruited and placed in a research internship, and the allowable costs to cover the demonstrated needs of each scholar with

the understanding that individual scholars may have different needs. The goal is to support each scholar’s commitment to research. The maximum dollar amounts per scholar (\$40,000) are based on a full-time, 12-month internship. However, TRDRP does not expect that scholars will participate in the program on a full-time basis; therefore, the scholar funds should be prorated according to the actual effort and length of the internship. The number of hours committed per scholar will be determined by each program. The effort and length of the internship will be taken into account in cost negotiations.

*TRDRP recognizes that actual costs may vary by institution; for example, some CSUs/CCCs may need to budget less for tuition than some other institutions. If scholar funds remain available ahead of the last year of a program, Co-PIs may decide to use those funds to recruit additional scholars beyond the budgeted 15 scholars. The TRDRP Program Officer must be notified if a funded project intends to recruit more than the budgeted 15 scholars.

Award Table

Item	Amount
Years of award	4
Administration funds per year	\$100,000
Administrative funds total	\$400,000
Number of budgeted scholars per award	15
Funds per scholar	\$40,000
Scholar funds total	\$600,000
Mentor funds for each scholar	15
Funds for research mentor per scholar	\$5,000
Funds for tobacco control mentor per scholar	\$5,000
Mentor funds total	\$150,000
Total Direct Costs per Award	\$1,150,000

H. Indirect costs: Full indirect costs are permitted for non-University of California (UC) institutions. Indirect costs to UC campuses are capped at 40 percent, or 25 percent for projects off campus.

I. Costs for out-of-state sub-contracts and collaborations are not allowed.

J. Award requirements:

- Applicants must have Principal Investigator-status at the sponsoring institution or hold a position that allows them to effectively design and administer an SVFSI Program. Faculty members must have at least 2 years of experience with college-level student instruction during their scientific career in order to be the PI. Student support

administrators may serve as the Principal Investigator, provided they have a leadership role in their position (e.g., Director, Associate Director).

- For awards with a Research Co-PI from the University of California (UC), in accordance with UC policy, Co-PIs who are UC employees and who receive any part of their salary through UC must submit their budget through their UC campus contracts and grants office. Exceptions must be approved by the UC campus where the PI is employed.
- A minimum of five percent effort (annualized) is required for the CSU/CCC Co-PI and five percent effort (annualized) is required for the Research Co-PI. The number of project personnel covering all six administrative functions (see [V.2.A](#)) may be two or more.
- Participating scholars will attend one or more TRDRP-organized Scholar Meeting(s) co-organized by the SVFSI Program and TRDRP, where scholars present their research plans and results, share their experiences, and network.
- U.S. citizenship is not a requirement for participants in SVFSI Programs, including individuals performing administrative functions (see [V.2.A](#)), scholars, and mentors.
- If funded, Co-PIs and their teams should be prepared to submit a concise budget attachment document detailing how their proposed budget items entered into the system during the full application stage align with the three categories outlined in the Award Table above – Administrative, Scholar, and Mentor funds.

TRDRP reserves the right to negotiate details of SVFSI Programs approved for funding after considering feedback from peer review and TRDRP’s Scientific Advisory Committee.

4. Review Criteria

Criteria Set-1: Impact (30% percent scoring weight)

- Impact on research pipeline: Does the proposal integrate an overall theme of tobacco control for one or more tobacco priority populations that is likely to attract CSU/CCC students to the SVFSI Program? Does the proposed program have the necessary significance and potential for impact toward developing a pipeline of dedicated tobacco control researchers and advocates?
- Impact on scholars: Is the proposed program likely to have a meaningful, positive impact on scholars’ career development in tobacco-related research and awareness of tobacco-related issues?

Criteria Set-2: Quality of the program (50% scoring weight)

- Scholars: Are appropriate approaches proposed for the recruitment of qualified students? (Please note that at the time of application, no scholars will have been recruited)
- Internships & Education: Are the research internships, tobacco control/advocacy projects, and educational programs appropriately designed and planned to provide scholars a quality experience in tobacco-related research and a path to further career development? Is the program theme incorporated in the educational activities in a manner that is likely to galvanize the commitment of the SVFSI Scholars to the SVFSI Program? Are the tobacco control/advocacy projects likely to benefit tobacco priority population(s)?
- Mentoring: Are the approaches to match scholars and mentors and other mentoring activities well thought out to enable productive and mutually beneficial research

internships? Do they facilitate cultural sensitivity? Have adequate approaches been established for supporting scholars and assessing their progress? Are Mentoring Agreements or Compacts between the scholars and mentors incorporated into the mentoring plan? Will Individual Development Plans be used to plan and monitor the short- and long-term career plans of the scholars?

- **Administration & Evaluation:** Is the administration of the program and the coordination of cross-institutional collaborations well designed, ensuring successful implementation of the proposed program? Is the Collaborative Agreement well thought out? Will the planned program evaluation meaningfully contribute to the ongoing improvement of the program over its lifetime?

Criteria Set-3: Feasibility of the program (20 % scoring weight)

- **Team:** Are the SVFSI Program CSU/CCC and Research Co-PIs and other key personnel appropriately qualified to carry out their roles? Are the roles and responsibilities of the team members clearly defined? Does the team have any previous experience and documented impact around developing a pipeline program in the past? Have the Co-PIs produced an application that is appropriately formatted, on the correct templates, and free from errors?
- **Access to students:** Do the CSU/CCC Institution(s) demonstrate access to the student population(s) of interest?
- **Institutions:** Does the proposed program adequately leverage the unique strengths of the institutions involved to achieve the goals of the Smoke- and Vape-Free Scholars Initiative?
- **Institutional support:** Is there evidence of adequate institutional support?

Unscored Criteria

Budget: Is the budget request for the project appropriate? Is there scientific or budgetary overlap with other active awards? If out-of-state contracts or collaborations are included in the budget, how essential are they to the successful completion of the project?

Additional Criteria: If applicable, the protection of human subjects from research risk, the inclusion of women, minorities, and children in research, the care and use of vertebrate animals in research, and the use of biohazards will be assessed.

VI. Application Procedures

Applicants who wish to apply for an SVFSI Program Award must use the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) Research Grants Program Office (RGPO) SmartSimple grants management system, <https://rgpogrants.ucop.edu/>.

Please review the “[SmartSimple LOI Submission Instructions](#)” for the technical instructions to submit an LOI and Full Application. All required fields in SmartSimple must be completed prior to submission of the LOI and Full Application. The sections noted below provide supplemental programmatic instruction to guide the content of your submission.

NEW 2027 REQUIREMENT: All application materials are required to be uploaded in formats accessible to individuals with disabilities, including those using assistive technologies. Applicants are required to prepare and review their application materials for accessibility and

ensure all submitted application materials comply with document-relevant Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA standards. Please contact your institution for information and resources on digital accessibility tools. Additional tips and links to useful accessibility resources may be found on the [UC Office of the President Electronic Accessibility website](#). The Research Grants Program Office staff is not able to provide training or review of your documents to assist you with compliance.

1. Letter of Intent Instructions

Applicants must submit a letter of intent (LOI) using the SmartSimple grants management system, <https://rgpogrants.ucop.edu/>. The SVFSI Program Awards are partnered awards, with the CSU/CCC Co-PI and Research Co-PI. Enter the name and institution for the identified Research Co-PI in the LOI form. LOIs are non-binding, but applications will not be accepted from institutions that have not had an LOI accepted by TRDRP. A review of the LOI will be conducted by TRDRP for acceptable eligibility. Applicants with approved LOIs will be invited to submit a full application.

Lay Abstract: (up to 2400 characters, approximately 350 words). Use the following guidance to complete the lay abstract:

Briefly and generally describe the proposed SVFSI Program using an organizing theme that is focused on tobacco control issue(s) and how it will contribute to the training of students interested in issues benefiting the tobacco priority populations that are the focus of the proposed program, and foster their interest in tobacco control and advocacy. Include the numbers and types (undergraduate/post-baccalaureate/master's students), the tobacco priority population(s) targeted for student recruitment, and the range of tobacco-related research opportunities and tobacco control activities available to scholars in the proposed program. Comment on the team's experience with fostering the careers of students. Describe the potential impact of the program on the students in light of the goals of the initiative and how the partnerships proposed will facilitate these outcomes.

Specific Aims: (up to 2,400 characters, approximately 350 words). Briefly describe the specific goals and aims of the proposed SVFSI Program.

2. Application Instructions

Responses entered into the SmartSimple grants management system at the LOI stage will be automatically entered into the Full Application stage. Please review all of the pre-populated information, make updates or changes as necessary.

The application for an SVFSI Program Award includes the following main sections: 'Project Information', 'Project Contacts', 'Budget', and 'Documentation', which are described in detail next.

The SVFSI Program Awards are partnered awards, with the **CSU/CCC Co-PI** and **Research Co-PI**. *NOTE: In SmartSimple, the CSU/CCC Co-PI is known as the Applicant Principal Investigator.* The CSU/CCC Co-PI will follow the instructions in the SmartSimple interface to use the "Invite Personnel" feature to invite the Research Co-PI to contribute to the application.

This invitation will trigger an email to the Research Co-PI with instructions for gaining access to the application file.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Lay Abstract: (up to 2,400 characters, approximately 350 words, pre-populated from the LOI stage). The lay abstract will become public information, if funded.

Briefly and generally describe the proposed SVFSI Program using an organizing theme that is focused on tobacco control issue(s) and how it will contribute to the training of students interested in issues benefiting the tobacco priority populations that are the focus of the proposed program, and foster their interest in tobacco control and advocacy. Include the numbers and types (undergraduate/post-baccalaureate/master's students), the tobacco priority population(s) targeted for student recruitment, and the range of tobacco-related research opportunities and tobacco control activities available to scholars in the proposed program. Comment on the team's experience with fostering the careers of students. Describe the potential impact of the program on the students in light of the goals of the initiative and how the partnerships proposed will facilitate these outcomes.

Specific Aims: (up to 2,400 characters, approximately 350 words, pre-populated from the LOI stage). Briefly describe the specific goals and aims of the proposed SVFSI Program.

Milestones and Timetable

Use this section to provide your timeline for

- Developing and implementing your proposed SVFSI Program
- Recurring scholar recruitment periods
- Recurring scholarship periods
- Educational activities
- Recurring Program evaluations

Please make sure to leave at least 8 weeks between completion of scholar recruitment and scholarship start time each year/cycle, to allow enough time for TRDRP to review the list of recruited scholars and negotiate the CSU/CCC Co-PI's budget for scholar internships.

TRDRP Research Priorities

Please choose one or more research priorities reflecting the types of research projects scholars will be able to conduct.

PROJECT CONTACTS

Project Personnel Table

List the CSU/CCC Co-PI, the Research Co-PI and additional administrative personnel covering the roles of Scholar Recruitment Coordinator, Scholar Support Coordinator, Tobacco Control/Advocacy Project Coordinator, and Educational Activities Coordinator (see

[V.2.A](#)). A given team member may serve in more than one role. Do not include internship research mentors in this section. *(On the Project Personnel table in SmartSimple, the CSU/CCC Co-PI must be listed as “Applicant Principal Investigator”, the Research Co-PI must be listed as “Co-Principal Investigator”, and the other administrative roles must be listed as “Co-Investigator”).*

For each administrative person, provide a biographical sketch using the SVFSI-specific template provided. Together, the biographical sketches should highlight prior experience and/or special expertise with each of the six administrative functions detailed in [V.2.A](#). Where appropriate, emphasis should be placed on experience with administering training programs that promote and foster students from different backgrounds, and specifically from backgrounds targeted in the proposed SVFSI Program.

BUDGET

Provide all budget information requested in the budget section of the application. Allowable costs for Program Awards under this Call for Applications are described above (see [V.3](#) & [VI.3](#)). If funded, Co-PIs and their teams should be prepared to submit a concise budget attachment document detailing how their proposed budget items entered into the system during the full application stage align with the three categories outlined in the Award Table above – Administrative, Scholar, and Mentor funds. Please keep these three overall categories in mind while creating your budgets in SmartSimple.

Program Award Budget

The CSU/CCC and Research Institutions will be partners on the SVFSI Program Awards, and each must complete a budget. This means the CSU/CCC Co-PI and the Research Co-PI will each have their own budget as prime grantees on the funded Program Award. If one of these two partners has a subcontract, then that prime partner can complete the budget for the subcontracting organization/institution. Subcontracts cannot be awarded to organizations outside of California.

DOCUMENTATION

The Documentation Table lists the required documents for this award type. Templates must be downloaded from the Documentation tab of SmartSimple, completed, converted to PDF, and either uploaded to the designated link in the application (the “Upload” location is listed in the last column of the table) or included in the appendix (“Appendix” in the last column in the table below). Template instructions can be found in section [VI.3](#) of this document.

Please ensure that your uploaded PDFs are not password protected and fully adhere to the page limitations and other template instructions. All submitted application materials must be accessible to individuals with disabilities, including those using assistive technologies, and comply with document-relevant Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA standards. In addition to software-specific accessibility checks, a manual review is strongly recommended. Compliance with this requirement is the responsibility of the submitting/Applicant PI on behalf

of the entire proposal team. The Research Grants Program Office staff is not able to provide training or review of your documents to assist you with compliance.

Documentation Table

Required Documents	Program Award Requirements	Page limit	Template provided	Upload / Appendix
SVFSI Biosketch* (All Personnel listed in Project Personnel Section)	yes	5 (for each biosketch)	yes	Upload
SVFSI Program Award Plan	yes	10 (excluding references)	yes	Upload
Participating Institutions & Organizations Table	yes	None	yes	Appendix
Letter of Agreement from collaborator(s), if applicable**	yes*	2	no	Appendix
Collaborative Agreement	yes	2	yes	Upload
Institutional Commitment Letter from CSU/CCC Institution and from Research Institution	yes	2 per institution (may be combined in one document for upload)	no	Upload
Facilities	yes	1 per institution (may be combined in one document for upload)	yes	Upload
Appendix list and appended material	yes	30	yes (for list)	Upload

*Note that there is a biosketch available in the template list in SmartSimple (under “Documentation/Templates”). Please do not use the standard template, nor the standard template instructions for traditional research projects (under “Project Personnel”), when preparing your SVFSI application.

**Applicants are only required to confirm collaborations beyond the CSU/CCC and Research Institutions that form the prime partnership for the SFVSI Program Award.

3. Detailed Description of each Proposal Document

SVFSI BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH (Page limit: 5 for each biosketch)

Use the SVFSI Biosketch Template for each project person and upload it in the Project Personnel section.

1. Personal Statement
2. Positions and Honors
3. Experience and/or special expertise with one or more of the administrative functions for SVFSI Program Awards (Co-Principal Investigator, Scholar Recruitment Coordinator,

Scholar Support Coordinator, Tobacco Control / Advocacy Project Coordinator, Educational Activities Coordinator). Where appropriate, emphasis should be placed on experience with administering training programs that promote and foster students from tobacco priority populations.

Note that there is a biosketch available in the template list in SmartSimple (under “Documentation/Templates”). Please do not use the standard template, nor the standard template instructions for traditional research projects (under “Project Personnel”), when preparing your SVFSI application.

SVFSI PROGRAM AWARD PLAN (Page limit: 10, excluding references)

Use the SVFSI Program Award Plan template to describe your program, addressing the 5 areas listed below, and upload it under “Program Plan.”

1. Participating Institutions & Organizations

Each SVFSI Program must, at a minimum, be a partnership of two institutions, the CSU/CCC institution and a Research Institution. Each program must, (i) recruit students, who will (ii) conduct research internships and (iii) participate in tobacco control/advocacy projects. A given institution may provide more than one of these activities, and additional collaborating institutions & organizations may participate in a program. See section [V.1](#) for eligibility requirements and include the Participating Institutions & Organizations Table (template provided) in the appendix.

Provide an overview of the collaborative cross-institutional structure of your proposed SVFSI Program, describing the planned contributions of each confirmed collaborating institution/organization and their relevant expertise. Describe each institution/organization’s access to targeted students and mentors, as applicable. If specific collaborations for scholar recruitment, research internship opportunities, and/or tobacco control/advocacy projects are not yet in place but planned, summarize the rationale and plans for and status of establishing collaboration opportunities. Indicate whether you plan to take advantage of TRDRP resources for identifying mentors and tobacco control/advocacy projects (optional).

2. Overall SVFSI Program Design

You may want to include a diagram to help illustrate your overall program design. Please ensure all submitted application materials comply with document-relevant Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA standards.

- Describe an overall theme for the program that is relevant to tobacco control issues for one or more tobacco priority population(s) at the CSU/CCC, in the local community, or in the State of California. The theme is intended to attract CSU/CCC students to the SVFSI Program by providing a perspective on how tobacco use impacts their lives and their communities. It is also intended to galvanize the commitment of the recruited SVFSI Scholars to the SVFSI Program.
- Describe the specific focus and purpose of the training program, including the numbers and types of students (undergraduate/post-baccalaureate/master’s students) and the tobacco priority population(s) they may represent, if any.
- Describe the research training to be offered, including:

- internship duration (minimum 6 months), effort commitment, timing during academic year
- Research subject areas offered for research internships (must be one or more of TRDRP's research priorities)
- how internship research projects will be designed to ensure scholars receive a meaningful introduction to the conduct of research
- required courses at CSU/CCC institution (describe briefly the material to be covered in each course) and, if applicable, at research internship institution
- auxiliary training, career development, and networking activities
- Describe the tobacco control/advocacy projects to be offered as part of the program including:
 - Duration, effort, timing during academic year
 - Type(s) of projects and their relevance to the tobacco priority population(s) that is the focus of the program
- Describe the auxiliary educational activities that will be provided to the scholars, and how the research internships, tobacco control/advocacy projects, and other proposed training activities will be integrated into a comprehensive educational program. Specify how the proposed educational activities will address the program theme.
- Describe the rationale and approaches to tailoring the education program to the targeted tobacco priority population(s).
- Describe how the team's previous experience, if any, around developing a pipeline program informed the development of the proposed SVFSI Program.

3. Scholar Recruitment and Selection

- Describe how scholars will be attracted and recruited to the program and selected for participation. Include tailored approaches to reaching candidate scholars who may not otherwise have considered seeking research training.
- Describe the tobacco priority population(s) (see [V.2.B](#)) from which scholars may be recruited. Describe the access to those population(s) at the CSU/CCC institution and, if applicable, the Research Institution.

4. Mentoring Activities

- Mentor Training Plan: Provide a description and rationale for mentor training activities and courses you intend to implement. This should include general mentor training and training tailored to working with students from tobacco priority population(s).
- Scholar-Mentor Matching Strategy: Describe the process for matching trainees and mentors and explain how it will facilitate the best outcomes for scholars and mentors.
- Scholar Mentoring and Support Strategy: Describe the needs of the scholars that would need to be addressed for a successful research experience. Describe how scholars will be advised, supported, and assessed throughout their SVFSI period and explain your approach to Mentoring Agreements or Compacts, Individual Development Plans and scholar – mentor mediation approaches. If available, include templates you will use in the Appendix.

5. Program Administration and Evaluation

- Describe plans for the administrative and educational leadership of the program. Explain how the six administrative functions (see [V.2.A](#)) will be coordinated.
- As an SVFSI Program is inherently collaborative, please describe the plans for cross-institutional collaborations in the administration of the program. In the additional Collaborative Agreement (template provided), describe how cross-institutional collaborations will be managed, describing your approach to team communication, decision making, handling of disagreements, and turnover of personnel. If funded, TRDRP recommends that the participating institutions enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that formalizes their collaboration plans. Please see more detailed instructions for the Collaborative Agreement below.
- Describe how, when, and how frequently the performance of your SVFSI Program will be evaluated, including scholar and mentor satisfaction. Consider creative evaluation tools that include qualitative, quantitative, and technology-driven information gathering methods. Explain how the need for course corrections will be identified and how they would be implemented, if needed.

6. Literature Cited

- If desired, you may choose to start this section on a new page. List relevant references. Each reference must include the title, names of all authors, book or journal, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. The references should be limited to relevant and current literature. Be concise and select only those literature references pertinent to the proposed plan.

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS & ORGANIZATIONS TABLE (no page limit)

Fill out the “Participating Institutions & Organizations Table” template and include in appendix

Enter information for (i) the CSU/CCC Institution, (ii) the Research Institution, and already established collaborations with (iii) tobacco control/advocacy institution(s), and other institutions or organizations into the table, using the template provided. Already established means a letter of agreement, indicative of their commitment to or interest in participating as a collaborating institution/organization, is available and included in the appendix. If an institution/organization has agreed to provide more than one program activity, re-list it for each activity.

Information to be listed for each institution/organization:

- Name of institution/organization
- TRDRP research priority(ies) offered (for research internship), or
- Type of tobacco control/advocacy project(s) offered (for tobacco control/advocacy project)
- Team member/local coordinator
- Confirmed mentors, if applicable

List prospective mentors if individuals have agreed to accept scholars for research internships or tobacco control/advocacy projects and are committed to participating in the proposed SVFSI Program. Applicants are not required to identify individual mentors at the time of application; provide mentor names only for specific internship opportunities that are in place at the time of application.

LETTER OF AGREEMENT, if applicable (Page limit: 2 per letter)

Include a letter of agreement in the appendix, no template provided

If the proposed SVFSI Program involves collaborating institutions beyond the two co-funded partners, and the collaboration has already been confirmed at the time of application submission, include a letter of agreement from the collaborating institution detailing their contribution to the proposed SVFSI Program.

COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT (Page limit: 2)

The “Collaborative Agreement” template is to be filled out by the CSU/CCC and Research partners. Upload it under “Collaborative Agreement”. This form is used in Peer Review to critique the qualifications of the SVFSI Program team.

1. Team Communication Plan: Describe the frequency and modes of communication that will be utilized by the administrative team (see [V.2.A](#)) to facilitate information gathering about program progress and arising issues.
2. Decision-Making Process: Develop and describe a team decision-making process that will be used to make decisions about ongoing and unexpected issues, such as scholar-mentor disputes or possible changes needed to the SVFSI Program to ensure its continued success. Describe how you plan to consider multiple perspectives from administrative team members and arrive at a consensus or majority decision. Describe how the SVFSI Program-related decisions will be finalized.
3. Handling Disagreements: Describe the process you will go through to manage disagreements that might arise between the partners during the administration of the SVFSI Program. Possible issues that may arise are cultural humility, administrative, and budget issues.
4. Plans for Turnover of Personnel: Describe how the turnover of personnel will be handled. Describe what steps will be taken to select a replacement for an individual responsible for any of the six administrative functions, or any of the participating institutions, if needed. Given the collaborative nature of SVFSI Programs, please keep in mind that the replacement of any of the administrative functions or participating institutions will need to be approved by TRDRP.

If funded, TRDRP recommends that the participating institutions enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that formalizes their collaboration plans.

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT (Page limit: 2 per institution)

Upload Institutional Letters of Support under “Letter of Commitment” (no template provided).

The partners, CSU/CCC Institution and the Research Institution, must each provide a letter of support, signed by a senior organizational official who has the authority, or who has been delegated the authority, to commit the applicant/co-applicant institution to support the proposed SVFSI Program. This letter should document in specific terms the nature of the institution’s current and future commitment to the proposed SVFSI Program during the period of the award and should include a description of facilities and resources available to the program. A discussion of the institution’s track record and future plans for expanding educational activities

relevant to the proposed program should also be included.

FACILITIES (Page limit: 1 per institution)

Fill out the “Facilities” template for each participating institution and upload under “Facilities”.

Briefly describe the facilities and resources (e.g. administrative space and equipment, access to institutional programs) that are needed and may be leveraged for successfully carrying out the proposed work.

APPENDIX LIST and APPENDED MATERIAL (Page limit: 30)

Fill out the “Appendix List” template, append required and optional documents to it and upload under “Appendix”

Include all required documents listed below in the appendix. You may include additional supplemental documents. The Program Award Description must be self-contained and understandable without having to refer to supplemental documents in the appendix. The appendix is not to be used to circumvent page limitations of the application. No supplemental materials are allowed after the submission deadline unless requested by TRDRP.

Required documents

- Participating Institutions & Organizations Table (template provided)
- Letters of Agreement from additional collaborating institutions (if applicable)
- Supplemental documents (optional)
- Mentoring Agreements or Compacts – templates that will be used by the applicant
- Individual Development Plans – templates that will be used by the applicant

All appendix materials will need to be in PDF format. If you plan to attach print materials (brochures, handbooks, etc.) you should prepare those documents to be uploaded well before the application deadline.

Appendix A: SVFSI Cost and Expense Guidelines

This appendix is specific to the SVFSI and supplants the general TRDRP Cost and Expense Guidelines.

1. Personnel

- The Budget Summary line item for Personnel should reflect the total cost of all individuals identified as supported by the grant and their level of effort. In the personnel section of the application, be sure to name all individuals to be supported by the grant and provide their percent effort (months devoted to the project). All paid individuals must also be listed on the budget.
- Follow the NIH Guidelines and Calculation scheme for determining Months Devoted to Project, available at the links below:
 - NIH Guidelines:
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/person_months_faqs.htm
 - NIH Calculation Scheme:
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/person_months_conversion_chart.xls
- Provide a justification for all budgeted personnel, identifying each individual by name, role on the project, and proposed effort. When computing salary for key personnel, use only the base salary at the applicant organization, excluding any supplementary income (e.g., clinical or consulting incomes). The program does not enforce a salary cap, as long as the overall budget adheres to the costs & expenses guidelines and the amount requested stays within the allowable costs.
- TRDRP does not reimburse for the University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP) interest assessment (RPNI) costs. These charges are not allowable and should not be included under Personnel or any other budget category.

2. SVFSI Scholar Tuition Fees, Stipends

- Each Smoke- and Vape-Free Scholar can be supported by a maximum of \$40,000, which can be used towards stipends, tuition & fees, health insurance, room & board for temporary relocation, other (childcare, elder care, etc.), project-related supplies and project-related travel, including TRDRP-organized events.
- TRDRP defines stipends differently from tuition and fees.
 - Stipends are a subsistence allowance to help defray living expenses, during the research training experience. Stipends may be budgeted as salary (and included in the MTDC cost calculation) if the institution pays these expenses through a personnel line item.
 - Tuition and fees are tuition, matriculation, and other fees to aid the student in pursuing study or research. TRDRP expects that funds allocated to stipend will be

dispersed separately from funds allocated to tuition and fees. Furthermore, TRDRP expects that the stipend will not reduce the total financial aid package offered by the grantee institution to individuals selected to be Smoke- and Vape-Free Scholars.

3. Other Project Expenses

- Include expected costs for supplies and other research expenses not itemized elsewhere. Please pay special attention to expenses that include or exclude associated indirect costs by selecting from options in the drop-down menus in the “Included in IDC” and “Not-Included in IDC” sub-categories. Costs should be broken out by year, include overall cost by category, an itemized sub-category list, and a description of costs.

Examples of justifications that meet these requirements are as follows:

- General lab supplies, chemicals, and biochemicals and chemicals (Year 1: \$16,123; Year 2: 15,884; and Year 3: 12,810) – This cost includes purchasing routine lab supplies such as plasticware and glassware for various preparations and disposable items, including pipettes, filter units, conical tubes, gloves, etc. Research cigarettes will be needed for the studies. The use of biochemicals, proteins, extracellular matrix substances, and molecular biology enzymes, markers for various protein and nucleic acid studies will be needed throughout the study. Materials to run various agarose and polyacrylamide gels are required. CO₂, dry ice, liquid nitrogen, oxygen, and various small instruments are necessary for the daily procedures performed in a molecular biology laboratory. Chemicals used throughout the various studies will be required to produce various solutions.
- Cell isolation and culture (Year 1-3: \$3000/year) - The project will employ the culture of cardiac myocytes from the various mouse models. This cost will cover collagenase, LiberaseTM, trypsin, serum, antibiotics, media, and other various chemicals and supplies related to these studies.
- Office Supplies / Computer (Year 1-3: \$5,000/year) - Costs are required to purchase office supplies and computer software for statistical analysis.
- Key Informant Interviews (Year 1: \$2000) – Interviews will be conducted with 25 community members, pre- and post-curriculum development. Participants will receive a \$50 gift card per interview. $(20 \text{ participants}) \times (\$50 \text{ per interview}) \times (2 \text{ interviews}) = \2000 .
- Community Advisory Board (CAB) compensation (Year 1-2; \$4000/year) – The project will be guided by a CAB consisting of 10 members who will provide ongoing input on project design, implementation, and interpretation of findings. The CAB will meet quarterly, and each member will receive a \$100 honorarium per meeting to recognize their time and expertise. $(10 \text{ CAB members}) * (\$100 \text{ honorarium per meeting}) \times (4 \text{ meetings per year}) = \4000 per year .

- Pooled expenses (e.g. insurance surcharges such as GAEL, system wide networking surcharges, and other pooled training and facilities expenses) may be allowed as a direct cost at the discretion of the Program with certification of all of the following: 1) the project will be directly supported by the pooled expenses, 2) the pooled expenses have been specifically excluded from the indirect cost rate negotiation, and 3) the pooled expenses have been allocated consistently over time within the organization. Please explain any requested pooled expense requests in the budget justification.
- Participant Support Costs are direct costs for items such as stipends for subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of study participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training projects. If allowable, these costs are excluded from Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC). Participant Incentives encourage an individual to participate as a research subject, and may include payments, gift cards, dependent care costs, parking fees and transportation reimbursement. These costs are allowable and included in MTDC. Please ensure any Participant Incentives are described clearly in the budget justification.

4. Equipment (Unit Cost over \$5,000)

- For all Awards, each requested equipment item must be >\$5,000 and explained in the budget justification. A quote may be requested during the pre-funding period prior to the issuance of an award.

5. Travel

- Please provide itemized details as to the number of travelers and mode of travel for each travel category relevant to your project.
- **Travel – TRDRP Meeting:** TRDRP may organize an event requiring your travel to the Oakland area within the funded grant period. Funds of \$750 should be set aside for each Co-PI and 15 scholars attending the Research Grants Program Office (RGPO) Meeting, budgeting a one-time \$750 expense under year 1 in a travel budget line labeled: "Travel - TRDRP Meeting."
- **Travel - Project Related:** Project-related travel expenses are allowable only for travel directly related to the execution of the proposed research activities. Label such expenses as "Travel – Project Related." These expenses must be fully justified in the budget justification.
- **Travel - Scientific Meetings:** Scientific conference travel is limited to \$2,000 per year (excluding a mandatory allocation of \$750 in one year of the project for travel to the

TRDRP Conference under Travel - RGPO Meeting). The same limit applies to Fellowship recipients. Label such expenses as “Travel-Scientific Meetings” and explain in budget justification.

6. Service Contracts and Consultants

- Both categories require additional description (Budget Justification). Provide hours/rate for consultant effort on the project if applicable.

7. Subcontracts

- Detailed contractual budgets must be included as a subcontractor budget in the database, and letters of collaboration from each subcontract must be included in the Appendix. A subcontract is not allowed to have another subcontract.
- In the case of University of California applicants, subcontracts need to be categorized and broken out as one of two types, University of California-to-University of California (UC to UC) sub agreements or transfers; or, Other. A subcontract is not allowed to have another subcontract. If applicable, include additional descriptions for each in the Budget Justification.

8. INDIRECT (F&A) COSTS

- **Indirect cost policy:** Non-UC institutions are entitled to full F&A of the Modified Total Direct Cost base (MTDC); UC institutional F&A is capped at 40% MTDC (25% for off-campus projects).
- **Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)** include salaries and wages, fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$25,000 of each subgrant or subcontract (regardless of the period covered by the subgrant or subcontract) to an outside institution. MTDC does not include (indirect costs are not allowed on): capital expenditures, charges for patient care, scholarships and fellowships (including postdoctoral stipends), tuition remission and graduate student stipends, rental costs of space, equipment purchases more than \$5,000 per item, the portion of each sub grant and subcontract in excess of the first \$25,000, and the total cost of any subcontract from one UC to another UC campus. On a non-fellowship award, you may apply indirect costs to graduate student salary (under salary only, not as stipend) but not to tuition & fees.
- For all eligible projects that allow grantees to recover the full amount of their federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, grantees must also accept the full federally recognized F&A rate for all award subcontractors (except for subcontracts to another UC institution, where F&A is capped by the statewide rate agreement as described in the RFP). If a grantee or subcontractor does not have a federally negotiated F&A rate at the time of the proposal submission, the grantee and/or subcontractor may estimate what the federally negotiated rate will be at the time of award and include this rate in the proposed budget, or may request a “De Minimis” F&A rate of 25% MTDC. A higher indirect rate

that has been accepted for state or local government contracts may be approved at the discretion of the Program Director and the Research Grants Program Office Executive Director.

- **Indirect Costs on Subcontracts**

- The award recipient institution will pay indirect costs to the subcontractor.
- For non-UC subcontracted partners, TRDRP will allow full F&A of the Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC), as defined above.
- F&A costs are not allowed for one UC institution's management of a subcontract to another UC institution.
- The amount of the subcontracted partner's F&A costs can be added to the direct costs cap of any award type. Thus, the direct costs portion of the grant to the recipient institution may exceed the award type cap by the amount of the F&A costs to the subcontracted partner's institution.

Appendix B: Other SVFSI Application-Related Policies and Pre & Post Award Requirements

Submission Process

Submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) is required to apply for all award types. The LOI must be submitted electronically. LOI submission instructions should be strictly followed as stated. LOIs will be programmatically reviewed for eligibility and alignment with TRDRP and SVFSI goals after the published deadline, and applicants will be notified whether they are invited to submit a full application (see Key Dates on p.3 for details).

All applicants should review this Call for Applications, LOI Instructions, and SmartSimple [Application Instructions](#) in their entirety, and must complete all necessary materials using the appropriate templates and forms. Failure to comply with provided instructions or submission of incomplete forms may result in administrative rejection of the application.

Review Process and Funding Decisions

Applications will be grouped by priority area and undergo peer-review by experts from outside of California. The criteria for evaluating applications are described in section [V.4](#) above. TRDRP and its Scientific Advisory Committee will prioritize funding scientifically meritorious applications that are well-aligned with the priority areas described in this Call for Applications, that provide a balance across these priorities, and that are within the extent of funding that is available. For more information about the funding process, visit the [TRDRP website](#).

Resubmission Policy

A resubmission is an unfunded SVFSI application that was submitted to TRDRP as a new application in the 2026 cycle and resubmitted under the current 2027 Call for Applications. Resubmitted applications are allowed to include a 2-page resubmission statement immediately preceding the SVFSI Program Plan. TRDRP will accept only a single resubmission of the same or very similar project, regardless of change in application title. Any additional submissions of the same or similar topic are considered new applications and may not include a revision statement.

Applicants are still required to inform TRDRP of their intent to resubmit through an LOI submission, and must note it as a resubmission (please refer to the SmartSimple [Application Instructions](#) for the specific award type). All other applications are considered new applications.

Multiple Submissions Policy

Applicants may submit LOIs for no more than two projects as Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator, provided that the proposed research topics and aims are significantly different for each project. No changes to PI or Co-PI may be made after LOI submission. In the event that more than two LOIs are submitted, the program reserves the right to decide which, if any, LOIs to consider for invitation to FA.

Principal Investigator Eligibility Criteria

Investigators from California not-for-profit organizations are eligible for TRDRP funding, including but not limited to colleges, universities, hospitals, laboratories, research institutions, local health departments, community-based organizations, voluntary health agencies, health maintenance organizations, and tobacco control organizations. The sponsoring institution, in accordance with its own policies and procedures, should designate the principal investigator (PI). The PI must supervise the research project and any trainees directly and in person. U.S. citizenship is not a requirement for eligibility.

Condition of Award for UC Faculty on payroll at a non-UC entity

In accord with University of California policy, investigators who are University employees and who receive any part of their salary through the University must submit grant proposals through their campus contracts and grants office (“Policy on the Requirement to Submit Proposals and to Receive Awards for Grants and Contracts through the University”, Office of the President, December 15, 1994). Exceptions must be approved by the UC campus where the investigator is employed.

Human Material and Animal Subjects

Approvals for use of human material and animal research subjects are not required at the time of application. Applicants are encouraged to apply to the appropriate board or committee as soon as possible in order to expedite the start of the project. If all reasonable efforts are not made to obtain appropriate approvals in a timely fashion, funds may be reallocated to other potential grantees' proposed research projects.

Appeals of Funding Decisions

RGPO strives to resolve issues raised throughout the grantmaking lifecycle from funding decisions to project closeout. Before submitting an appeal or grievance, applicants are encouraged to discuss their concerns with the appropriate program officer or program director.

The only basis on which an appeal regarding the funding decision of a grant application will be considered is in the case of an alleged error in, or violation of the peer review procedures and/or process. Appeals based on substantive disagreement with the peer review evaluation will not be considered. In such cases, applicants may resubmit applications in a subsequent grant cycle. Applicant appeals must be made to the program within 30 days of funding notification. If discussions with the program do not satisfactorily resolve an applicant's issue, either the applicant or the program may contact the RGPO Executive Director for resolution. If resolution is not achieved or if the applicant believes that a violation has occurred that has not been adequately addressed through these efforts, a formal appeal may be filed with the Vice President of Research and Innovation.

Pre-Funding Requirements

Upon request, awardees must supply the following information or documents:

1. Supply approved indirect (F&A) rate agreements as of the grant's start date and any derived budget calculations.
2. Supply any missing application forms or materials, including detailed budgets, additional budget documentation required at pre-funding, and justifications for any subcontract(s).
3. IRB or IACUC applications, approvals, and/or certification of institutional monitoring of required research compliance assurance statements pertaining to the award.
4. Resolution of any scientific overlap issues with other grants or pending applications.
5. Resolution of any Review Committee and Program recommendations, including specific aims, award budget, or duration.
6. Modify the title and lay abstract, if requested.
7. Other Support information.

Publications Acknowledgement and Open Access

All scientific publications and other products from a RGPO-funded research project must acknowledge the funding support from UC Office of the President, with reference to TRDRP and the assigned grant ID number.

RGPO is committed to disseminating research as widely as possible to promote the public benefit. All publications based on funding received from RGPO are subject to the University's Open Access Policy which went into effect on April 22, 2014. To assist the RGPO in disseminating and archiving the articles, the grantee institution and all researchers on the grant will deposit an electronic copy of all publications in the [UC Publication Management System](#), UC's open access repository, promptly after publication. Notwithstanding the above, this policy does not in any way prescribe or limit the venue of publication. The full policy is available here: <https://www.ucop.edu/research-grants-program/grant-administration/rgpo-open-access-policy.html>

Grant Management Procedures and Policies

All TRDRP grant recipients must abide by other pre- and post-award requirements pertaining to Cost Share, Indirect Cost Rates, Monitoring & Payment of Subcontracts, Conflict of Interest, Disclosure of Violations, Return of Interest, Equipment and Residual Supplies, Records Retention, Open Access, and Reporting as outlined in the Grants Administration Manual (GAM) available at the link below: https://www.ucop.edu/research-grants-program/files/documents/srp_forms/grant_administration_manual.pdf.

Accessibility Requirements

All application materials are required to be uploaded in formats accessible to individuals with disabilities, including those using assistive technologies. Applicants are required to prepare and review their application materials for accessibility, and ensure all submitted application materials comply with document-relevant Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA standards. Please contact your institution for information and resources on digital accessibility tools. Additional tips and links to useful accessibility resources may be found on the [UC Office of the President Electronic Accessibility website](#).