

TRDRP 2027 Core Call Applicant Informational Webinar

July 16, 2026

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Webinar Overview

Programmatic Overview

- TRDRP's Mission
- Changes to TRDRP Grant Competitions
- Key Dates for the 2027 Call
- Key Changes to the 2027 Call for Applications (trainee only)
 - Eligibility and Impact
- Grant Types, and Scoring Criteria
- Key Guidance to Applicants

Q & A (end of this webinar)

SmartSimple Application Overview & Webinar Slides will be available on the TRDRP website: <https://www.trdrp.org/what-we-fund/>

About TRDRP

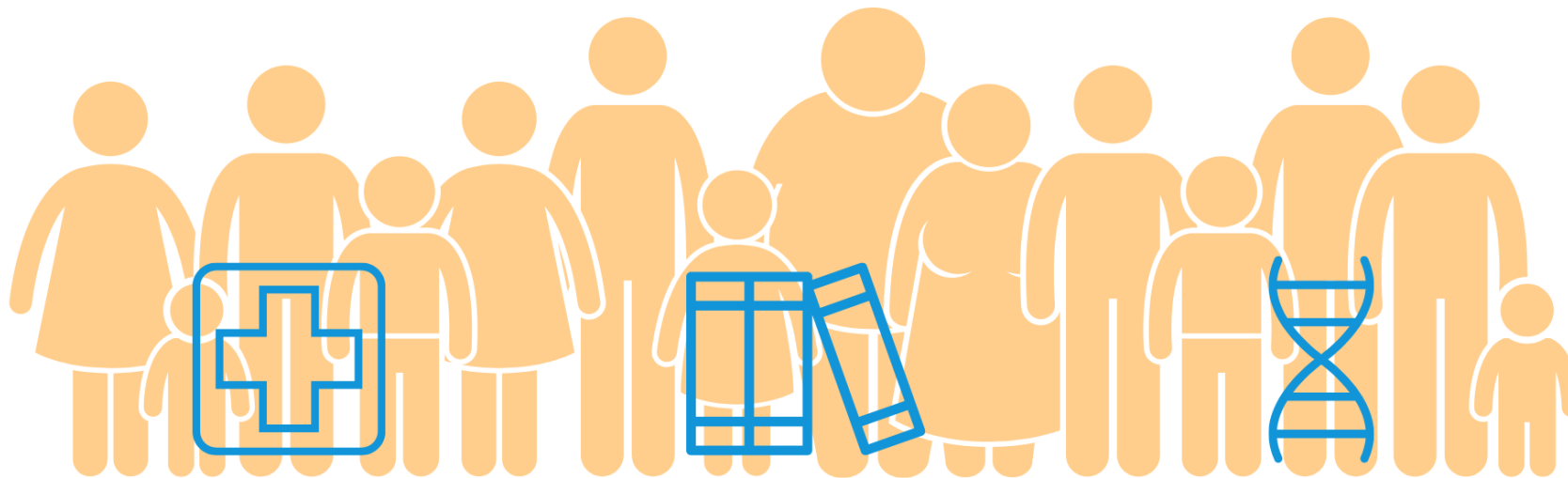
Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program

OUR VISION: Turning the cost of addiction into data-driven solutions to end the commercial tobacco epidemic in California.

OUR MISSION: We fund transformative research that helps reduce commercial tobacco product use, prevent addiction that leads to tobacco-related diseases, and shape policies that serve Californians most harmed by nicotine and commercial tobacco.

Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program

A part of California's comprehensive tobacco control program



Health

Promotion/Treatment

CA Tobacco Prevention
Program (CTPP)
CA Dept of Public
Health

Prevention

Tobacco Use
Prevention Program
(TUPE)
CA Dept of Education

Research

Tobacco-Related Disease
Research Program (TRDRP)
Research Grants Program
Office (RGPO)
University of California



Funded through
tobacco product
excise taxes



Focused on research
with the highest
likelihood of
impacting current
and former
commercial tobacco
product users

Tobacco Priority Populations

- disproportionately targeted by the tobacco industry,
- use tobacco at higher-than-average rates,
- experience greater exposure to secondhand or thirdhand smoke and vape aerosol, or
- have higher rates of tobacco-related disease.



TRDRP Grant Cycles July 2026 – July 2029

Strategic Approach

To **strengthen** the impact of funded research in the face of a declining tobacco tax fund source, TRDRP **will focus funding on Research Challenge Areas** that address critical gaps in the commercial tobacco control evidence base.

Research Challenge Areas (RCAs) will be developed through **structured input from key partners**.

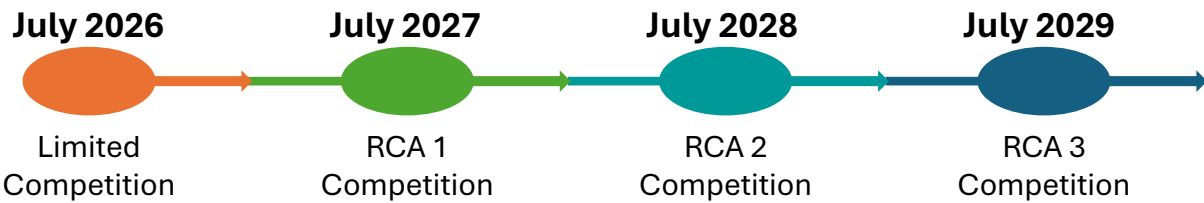
- TRDRP oversight boards (SAC, TEROC)
- TEROC partners (TUPE, CTPP)
- Commercial tobacco control practitioners (LLAs, LEAs)
- Community-based Organizations engaged in tobacco prevention and cessation work

Example RCA:
Preventing and Combating
Nicotine Addiction in
Youth & Young Adults



Input Sessions: June 2026 – September 2026
Ongoing updates: Annual input gathering to ensure RCAs address emerging priorities.

Grant Cycle Structure



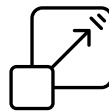
Eligible Award Types by Grant Cycle

Year	Eligible Award Types
July 2026	Predocutorial and Postdoctoral Trainees, CPPRA, SFVSI, MSCI
July 2027	Predocutorial and Postdoctoral Trainees, CPPRA, TPRC, Single-investigator RCA proposals
July 2028	Predocutorial and Postdoctoral Trainees, CPPRA, TPRC, Single-investigator RCA proposals
July 2029	Predocutorial and Postdoctoral Trainees, CPPRA, SVFSI, Single-investigator RCA proposals

Key Features of the new Model



Community-Centered Research



Smaller, More Strategic Competitions



Investment in Future Leaders

Key Dates

Call Opened	Wednesday, July 1, 2026
Letter of Intent (LOI) Submission Deadline	Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 12 p.m. NOON Pacific Time
Invitation to submit a Full Application Announced	Tuesday, September 8, 2026
Due date for all Full Applications including resubmissions	Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 12 p.m. NOON Pacific Time
Applicants Notified	April 2027
Awards Start	July 1, 2027

Open Calls

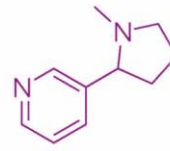
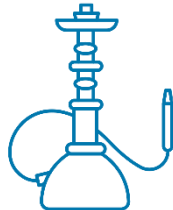
1. Core Call (predoctoral and postdoctoral only)
2. Community-Based Participatory Research Awards (CPPRA)
3. Smoke- and Vape-Free Scholars Initiative (SVFSI)

2027 Call for Applications: Key Changes

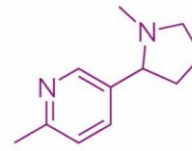
- **This year, a limited number of open calls for applications will be offered:** predoctoral awards, postdoctoral awards, pilot and full Community-Partnered Participatory Research Awards (CPPRA), and Smoke and Vape Free Scholars Initiative (SVSFI) Awards.
- TRDRP will prioritize applications studying the causes and potential remedies for **tobacco-related cancer health disparities** over other tobacco-related cancer applications.
- Research in basic and preclinical science studies of tobacco-related diseases must study **one or more of the commercial tobacco products or usage patterns** listed under Eligibility Criteria to be deemed eligible (see slide 8).
- Submission of an LOI is required for all award mechanisms. TRDRP will assess both the eligibility and the potential near-term impact of LOIs and will invite **no more than 80** predoctoral and postdoctoral letters of intent to submit a full application. (see slide 9)
- Postdoctoral Award applicants costs should **fully justify Institutional Allowance costs in their budget**. See Appendix C of the Call for examples of how costs should be described.
- 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](#).

Scientific Eligibility Criteria

1. Basic and preclinical science studies of tobacco-related diseases must study **one or more of the following commercial tobacco products or usage patterns**.
 - a. products exempted from the California flavored tobacco ban (i.e. hookah, loose leaf tobacco and premium cigars)
 - b. non-combusted nicotine products (e.g. vapes)
 - c. oral nicotine products
 - d. heated tobacco products
 - e. addictive nicotine analogs (e.g. nicotinamide and 6-methyl nicotine)
 - f. synthetic cooling agents (e.g., WS-3 and WS-23)
 - g. inhaled tobacco/nicotine co-used with other substances of abuse, including inhaled cannabis/THC (e.g., blunts or vapes).



Nicotine



6-Methylnicotine



Letter of Intent Impact Review

- TRDRP will assess both **eligibility** and **impact** of submitted LOIs and will invite no more than **80 predoctoral and postdoctoral** letters of intent to submit a full application
- Some eligible studies may not be invited to Full Application if the study goals do not **directly impact California's tobacco control efforts**
 - See the TEROC Plan and California Endgame Policy Platform [here](#).
- Eligible studies aiming to produce results that can immediately be used to inform California's efforts to end the tobacco/nicotine epidemic in California **will be prioritized for invitation to full application.**

Current Research Priorities

- Research in support of the California Endgame Initiative
- 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

Community Engagement

- A community engagement and communications plan is expected to be integrated into all predoctoral and post doctoral applications at a level appropriate to the type of research being proposed
- Scientific Meetings $\neq$ Community Engagement
- Funds may be included in the project budget
- Review Appendix E of 2027 Core Call for examples



TRDRP community
voices



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)

- Responsiveness to the needs of California's Tobacco Control Community
- Approach
- Community Engagement Plan

Criteria Set-2 (40% scoring weight)

- Training Plan and Individual Development Plan
- Qualifications of the applicant

Criteria Set-3 (20% scoring weight)

- Mentor's qualifications and commitment
 - **application is appropriately formatted, on the correct template, and free from errors**
- Environment

See Appendix E of the 2027 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 per year, 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 and Individual Development Plan
- Qualifications of the applicant

Criteria Set-2 (30% scoring weight)

- Mentor's qualifications and commitment
 - **application is appropriately formatted, on the correct template, and free from errors**
- Environment

Criteria Set-3 (20% scoring weight)

- Responsiveness to the needs of California's Tobacco Control Community
- Approach
- Community engagement

*See Appendix E of the 2027
Call for Applications for
detailed instructions to assist
applicants in communicating
clearly with peer reviewers*

Review Criteria: Other Considerations



- Budget: Appropriate level, overlap and any 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

Additional Guidance to Applicants

Start the Application Process Early

Submission Instructions

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Welcome to Research Grants Program Office | UCOP

The Research Grants Program Office (RGPO) at the University of California Office of the President oversees a broad grantmaking portfolio of over \$100 million a year. For information on RGPO programs and grant administration policies, please visit: <https://www.ucop.edu/research-grants-program/>.

Please login to respond to grant opportunities offered by

- California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP)
- California Climate Action Initiative
- California HIV/AIDS Research Program (CHRP)
- Cancer Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC)
- Laboratory Fees Research Program (LFRP)
- Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI)
- Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP)

Technical System Support: (including account and institution updates)
email: RGPOgrants@ucop.edu

Principal Investigator/New User Registration

[Register Here](#)

Login to SmartSimple

Email:

Password:

[Forgot Password?](#)

[Privacy & Security](#)

[Login](#)

<https://rgpogrants.ucop.edu>

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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Smoke- and Vape-Free Scholars Initiative	
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Appendix D: Technical Tips and Warning.....	
Contact Information.....	

1. After opening the LOI, you will automatically be taken to the LOI sections under the Main tab. Use the left sidebar to switch between the Main and Notes tabs

Download instructions

Click "Preview" to view, download, or print a PDF of your LOI

2. In the Main tab, click on the headings to access the different sections of the LOI

Letter of Intent RFP Details
Name: CBCRP 2020 - Trans Type: Translational Research
Deadline: 10/24/2019 12:00

Templates and Instructions:
[Instructions_placeholder.docx](#)
11.2 KB - 08/15/2019 10:46am

Preview

TITLE PAGE | APPLICANT / PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR | PROJECT INFORMATION | BUDGET | SIGNATURE PAGE

Application ID: B26TR1198

* Project Title: Please enter the project title by 100 characters left

* Project Duration (year): -- Select One --

* Proposed Project Start Date: mm/dd/yyyy

* Proposed Project End Date: mm/dd/yyyy

* Is this a re-submission?

Please indicate if this is a resubmission of a prior application. A resubmission is an unfunded application that is revised and resubmitted to respond to the critiques under the currently reviewed grant cycle.

☐ Yes
☐ No

[Save Draft](#) [Submit LOI](#) [Withdraw](#)

Review the RFA Thoroughly

- Please read the RFA and familiarize yourself with all its details.
- The different RFA sections and appendices include important details on what information to include in your LOI and in the different sections of your Full Application.



Additional Trainee Resources

Check out
our Trainee
Corner!



TOBACCO-RELATED DISEASE RESEARCH PROGRAM

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WHAT WE FUND | OUR IMPACT | NEWS AND EVENTS | COMMUNITY-PARTNERED RESEARCH | **TRAINEE CORNER**

TRAINEE CORNER

TRDRP is committed to preparing the next generation of dedicated tobacco control researchers and advocates.

TRDRP defines trainees as mentored individuals supported by TRDRP grants. This includes recipients of Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Awards, as well as individuals supported on TRDRP Independent Investigator Awards. A subset of early career trainees may be supported by a Student Research Supplement or a Cornelius Hopper Disparities Award Supplement. Most recently, TRDRP established the Smoke- and Vape-Free Scholars Initiative to develop a pipeline of dedicated tobacco control researchers and advocates in California.

Trainees are supported by their mentors as well as through TRDRP-led programs to help them not only discover their professional purpose but also energize their career journeys through skill-building and meaningful connections.

If you are a TRDRP-funded trainee interested in sharing what you have accomplished

APPLYING FOR AND MANAGING GRANTS

CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT

APPLYING FOR AND MANAGING GRANTS

Guidance for early-career investigators and their mentors

Whether you're preparing your first application or closing out a funded project, use the links below for helpful tips on navigating each stage of the TRDRP grant process: Letter of Intent, Full Application, Pre-Award, Annual Progress Reports, and Closeout. These best practices are designed for early-career investigators and their mentors to clarify expectations, reduce confusion, and help you confidently manage the administrative side of your award—so you can stay focused on your research.

Submitting a grant application to TRDRP

Managing a TRDRP Award (coming soon)

Individual Development Plan and Establishing Shared Mentoring Expectations Template

TOBACCO-RELATED DISEASE RESEARCH PROGRAM

Applying for a TRDRP Research Grant: *A guide for early career investigators*

Read the Call for Applications	Attend an Applicant Webinar	Submit a Letter of Intent (LOI)	Submit a Full Application (FA)
July 1, 2025	July 15-23 2025	Thursday, August 21, 2025, 12 p.m. (noon) Pacific Time	Thursday, October 30, 2025, 12 p.m. (noon) Pacific Time
Find the 2025 Calls	Register for webinars	Submit via SmartSimple	If invited, work with your institution's SPO to submit

Browse the Funded Research Database

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Office of the President

Research Grants Program Office

FUNDED RESEARCH DATABASE

The University of California is committed to advancing discoveries that benefit California and the world. Search our research database to learn more about projects funded.

Search Database

Keywords

community

Investigators

Search and select

Institutions

Search and select

Research Program

Tobacco Related Disease Research Pr... ▼

Research Priority

Search and select

Award Type

Community Academic Research Award - Full CARA

Community Academic Research Award - Pilot CARA

Community Partnered Participatory Research Award - Full CPPRA

Community Partnered Participatory Research Award - Pilot CPPRA

Community Partnered Participatory Research Award

Date Range

YYYY ▼

YYYY ▼

Search

trdrp.org/our-impact/funded-research-database.html

Preview your Submission

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

HomeAvailable Funding OpportunitiesHistorical ApplicationsGrantee InstructionsOpen Calls (Testing)

Main

Notes

T37CR11937 - Partner - RGPOTest 2027 Pilot CPPRA

Preview

TITLE PAGE

APPLICANT / PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT CONTACTS

BUDGET

Application ID: T37CR11937

Project Title: RGPOTest 2027 Pilot CPPRA ?

Project Duration (year): 2

Proposed Project Start Date: 07/01/2027 ?

Proposed Project End Date: 06/30/2029 ?

Is this a re-submission?

Please indicate if this is a resubmission of a prior application. A resubmission is an unfunded application that is revised and resubmitted.

Yes

Review the Frequently Asked Questions

 **TOBACCO-RELATED DISEASE
RESEARCH PROGRAM**

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Search 

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Frequently Asked Questions

What changes should we anticipate for the 2027 TRDRP grant competition?

On July 1, 2026, TRDRP will release a limited number of open calls for applications with an award start date of July 1, 2027.

- Predoctoral Awards**
Support graduate-level research and help build a foundation for independent research careers or alternative careers in tobacco control.
- Postdoctoral Awards**
Support postdoctoral research and strengthen capacity for independent research or other tobacco control career pathways.

See [Core Call](#) for more details.



<https://trdrp.org/what-we-fund/call-for-applications-faq.html>

Key Guidance to Applicants

- Only **predoctoral** and **postdoctoral** investigator-initiated award applications will be accepted this cycle
- ***LOI Submission Deadline:***
 - **Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 12 p.m. NOON PT**
- ***Invited Application Due:***
 - **Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 12 p.m. NOON PT**
- LOIs are required for ALL applications
- Please review criteria for assessing **eligibility** and **impact**
- Ensure all application materials **comply** with document-relevant Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA standards.
- Contact trdrp@ucop.edu with any **programmatic** questions
- Contact rgpogrants@ucop.edu with any **SmartSimple** questions

The background of the slide is a dense, overlapping collage of colorful sticky notes in shades of blue, green, yellow, and pink. Each sticky note features a large, bold, black question mark. In the center of this collage is a white rectangular box containing the text "Thank you! Questions?".

Thank you!
Questions?