

TRDRP 2026 MSCI Call Applicant Informational Webinar



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Webinar Overview

Programmatic Overview

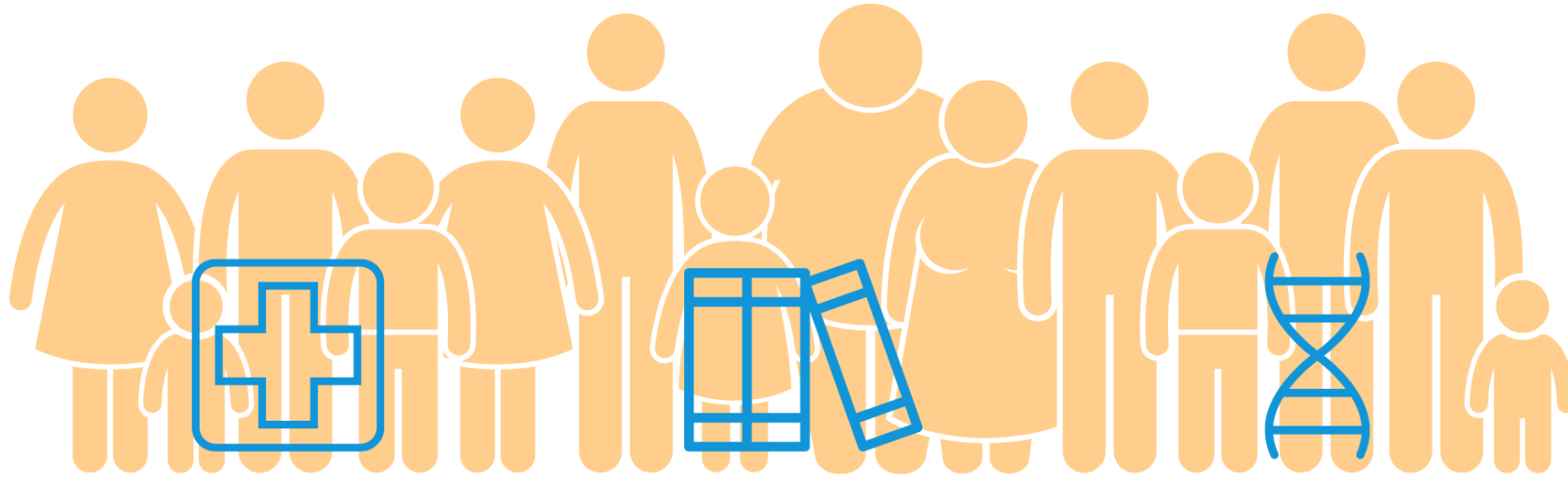
- TRDRP's Mission
- Key Dates
- The MSC1 Initiative and Award – *Full Partnered Investigator*
- Key Guidance to Applicants

Q & A (end of this webinar)

Slides for this webinar will be available on our website: <https://www.trdrp.org/what-we-fund/>

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

2027 MSCI Initiative

The MSCI Framework

- TRDRP has funded community-academic research partnerships for over **25 years**.
- Collaboratively developed and led by:
 - One Community Co-Principal Investigator
 - One Academic Co-Principal Investigator



Collaboration in Detail

**Community
& Academic
Co-PIs
collaborate on
all aspects of
the research
process:**

Identifying and developing the research questions

Transforming community concerns into research questions

Working closely with Community Advisory Board members

Writing and submitting the research proposal

Designing and implementing the research project

Analyzing and interpreting findings

Preparing and submitting progress reports to the funder

Co-authoring summaries for communities, scientific papers, presentations

Disseminating results to community and scientific audiences

Developing a plan for sustainability beyond the proposed project

Defining Community: (CPPRA)-MSCI

Community-> defined here as women residing in communities disproportionately impacted by tobacco-related illness and adverse maternal outcomes.

Tobacco Priority Populations (*within MSCI*):

- Are disproportionately targeted by the industry;
- Use tobacco at higher-than-average rates;
- Experience greater exposure to secondhand and thirdhand smoke and vape aerosol; and/or have higher rates of tobacco-related disease.
- Have a higher rate of tobacco-related disease

2027 Full Partnered MSCI Award

- *MSCI award* prioritizes research dedicated to implementing, and evaluation of culturally-tailored commercial tobacco cessation interventions that have progressed from a Pilot MSCI award to a Full Partnered MSCI award. The **Partnered-MSCI Award** provides up to **3-years** of support for a well integrated community-academic research partnership
- The core objective is to evaluate sustainable interventions that effectively address the unique needs and challenges faced by **pregnant individuals who reside in communities disproportionately impacted by tobacco-related illness and adverse maternal outcomes.**

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

Full Partnered MSCI Award

Eligibility Criteria

Qualifications of a Community Co-PI	Qualifications of an Academic Co-PI
Affiliated with a California community-based organization.	Affiliated with a California academic or nonprofit research institution.
Affiliated with a community organization or a tribal organization/tribe that primarily provides services or resources to people in a community within California (i.e., they cannot be a lone person who is not connected to relevant community-based groups).	Has a university faculty appointment or a community research scientist designation with an appointment at a community-based research organization or private research institution. Research scientists and community-oriented academics working at a non-university research organization that is a nonprofit can serve in this role.
Committed to representing the views of the community of interest.	Committed to conducting long-term community-partnered participatory research.
Have organizational support to serve as a Co-PI for the project.	Must have PI status. PI status permits the academic applicant access to their institution's infrastructure support for managing research grants.
There is <u>no</u> degree requirement.	Committed to accurately depicting the state-of-the-science for the community's benefit.
U.S. citizenship is <u>not</u> a requirement.	U.S. citizenship is <u>not</u> a requirement.

*See p. 12 and Appendix C of the
2026 MSCI RFA
for additional details on eligibility*

Full Partnered MSCI Award Mechanism

	Max Award/Year (Direct Costs)	Max Award Duration (Years)	Purpose of Award
Partnered- MSCI	\$600,000 (Direct Costs) (\$300,000/Co-PI)	3	Support development and evaluation of culturally-tailored interventions for smoking cessation among pregnant individuals residing in communities disproportionately impacted by tobacco-related illness and adverse maternal outcomes.

Full Partnered MSCI Award

Support **implementation** and **evaluation** of culturally-tailored interventions for smoking cessation among pregnant individuals residing in communities disproportionately impacted by tobacco-related illness and adverse maternal outcomes.

Provides up to **3 years of** support for research, including:

- Demonstration, measurement, efficacy, and effectiveness of maternal culturally tailored smoking cessation strategies
- Implementation of pilot data to address MSCI outcomes
- Randomized controlled trials to evaluate improvement of smoking cessation methods

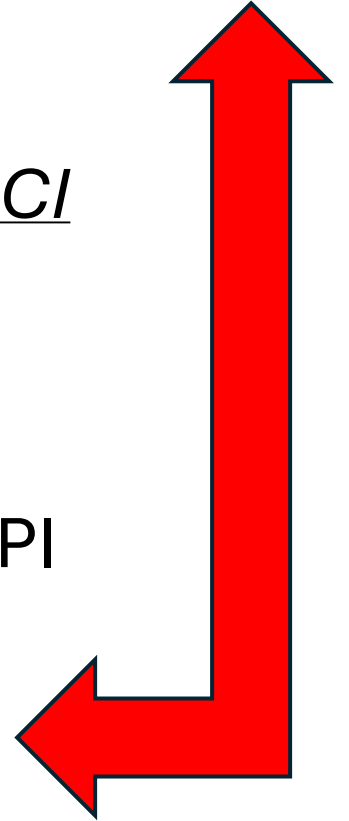
Full MSCI (continued)

- Intended for well-integrated teams of academic and community experts with a previous working relationship.
 - Proposals may have a specific aim focused on outcomes of pilot data that will strengthen and/or evaluate the community-academic research partnership.
- Must mainly focus on intervention development and testing.
- A pilot project is strongly recommended as preparation for a Full Partnered MSCI.

Application Procedure

MSCI: Submit a Letter of Intent (LOI)

- ❑ A letter of intent (LOI) is required *for the Full Partnered MSCI RFP* to assess the application against TRDRP eligibility requirements.
- ❑ The Community Co-PI or Academic Co-PI must be identified at time of LOI submission; Designate Applicant PI submitting LOI and Full Application on behalf of the team
- ❑ The LOI must be submitted electronically using the SmartSimple system.



Full Partnered MSCl Application Sections

- Project Information
 - Abstracts, Specific Aims
- Demographics
- Milestones
- Project Personnel
- 2 Budgets
- **Collaborative Agreement**
- Resubmission Statement (If applicable)
- Research Plan
- Biosketches
- **Community Advisory Board**
- Facilities
- Human Subjects
- Appendices (Optional)

Collaborative Agreements

- Collaboratively prepared by the Community and Academic Partners informed by their respective perspectives, needs, and constraints.
- Describes how the proposed Partnered-MSCI team will work together and share power, budget, resources, and outcomes with each other in:
 - ☐ Ownership of data
 - ☐ Handling disagreements
 - ☐ Plans for broader community involvement in all phases of the research project
 - ☐ Team communication plan
 - ☐ Decision-making process for community and academic Co-PIs
 - ☐ Plans for turn-over of personnel
 - ☐ Plans to evaluate the strength of the research partnership
 - ☐ Plans for dissemination of findings
 - ☐ Plans to sustain the research partnership beyond the life of the grant

Community Advisory Board

- Describes the composition of recruited CAB members at the time of application submission and members/expertise for future recruitment.
- The CAB should be comprised of individuals with expertise in tobacco control and other areas.
 - Recruited CAB members must be named with a description of their organizational affiliation and proposed contribution for the project in relation to their role on the CAB.
 - If designating CAB roles are yet to be determined (TBD), please describe areas of expertise your team will seek to recruit at a future time during the project.

Full Application – Required Templates

- Download templates from the Documentation tab of SmartSimple.
- Delete instructions to ensure sufficient space for a thorough response to each section.
- Complete, convert to PDF, and upload to your application.

Upload Item (Template/Form)	Page limit	Required or optional
Collaborative Agreements	3	Required
Community Advisory Board	2	Required
Community Engagement Plan	1	Required
Biosketches (All Personnel listed on Key Personnel form)	5 (each biosketch)	Required
Facilities	1 per institution	Required
Resubmission Statement	2	Required (for resubmissions only)
Research Plan	15 + references	Required
Human Subjects	No limit	Required
Vertebrate Animals	No limit	Optional
Appendix list and uploads	30	Optional

*See MSCI RFA p. 22
for additional details*

MSCI Peer Review Criteria Sets

- Standard NIH scoring system that is based on the 1-9 scale

Criteria Set-1 (40% scoring weight) – “Research”

- Statement of Goals, Research Questions, and Specific Aims
- Background, Significance, and Relevance to a Tobacco-Related Area
- Research Plan: Research Design, Conceptual Framework, and Data Analysis Plan

Criteria Set-2 (40% scoring weight) – “Partnership”

- Partnership Collaboration Plan and Team Communication Process
- Potential for the Proposed Work to Benefit the Community and Lead to an Intervention
- Community Engagement and Capacity Building
- Dissemination Approaches and Sustainability Plan
- Statement of Future Goals

Criteria Set-3 (20% scoring weight) – “Resources”

- Investigative Team
- Environment, Facilities, and Resource Availability
- Community Assets

Unscored Review Criteria: Other Considerations



- Budget: Appropriate level, overlap and any out-of-state expenses; **2 Budgets** -1 for Community Org. and 1 for the Academic Inst.



- **Subcontracts** are allowed for each Co-PI organization; must be well justified.

- Protection of Human Subjects from Research Risk



- Inclusion of Women, Minorities and Children in Research
- Biohazards

Cornelius Hopper Disparities Supplements (CHDS)

- **Purpose:** Support trainees and California residents who wish to pursue careers in research focused on tobacco priority populations.
- During the pre-funding process, MSCl awardees will be invited to apply for a supplement via CHDS.
- Supplements are funded above the MSCl budget cap.
 - Maximum supplement amount per year: \$20,000 (direct costs)
 - Maximum duration: 2 years

Additional Guidance to Applicants

New Requirement for 2027

- **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.

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.

Key Dates

Letter of Intent Deadline	August 20, 2026 12:00 p.m. (noon) PT
Invitation to Full Application Announced	September 8, 2026
Full Application Deadline	October 29, 2026 12:00 p.m. (noon) PT
Applicants Notified	April 2027
Award Start Date	July 1, 2027

Upcoming Deadline. . .

- ***LOI Submission Deadline:***
 - **August 20, 2026 12 p.m. NOON PT**
- ***Invited Application Due:***
 - **September 8, 2026 12 p.m. NOON PT**
- LOI are required for *ALL* applications/award mechanisms
- Please refer to the MSCI RFP throughout the LOI and application process
- Contact **trdrp@ucop.edu** with any questions

Thank you!
Questions?

