

TRDRP 2027 Smoke- and Vape-Free Scholars Initiative (SVFSI) Applicant Informational Webinar

July 15, 2026

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Webinar Overview

Programmatic Overview

- About TRDRP
- SVFSI Program Awards
- Application and Review Process
- Guidance to Applicants

Q & A (end of this webinar)

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

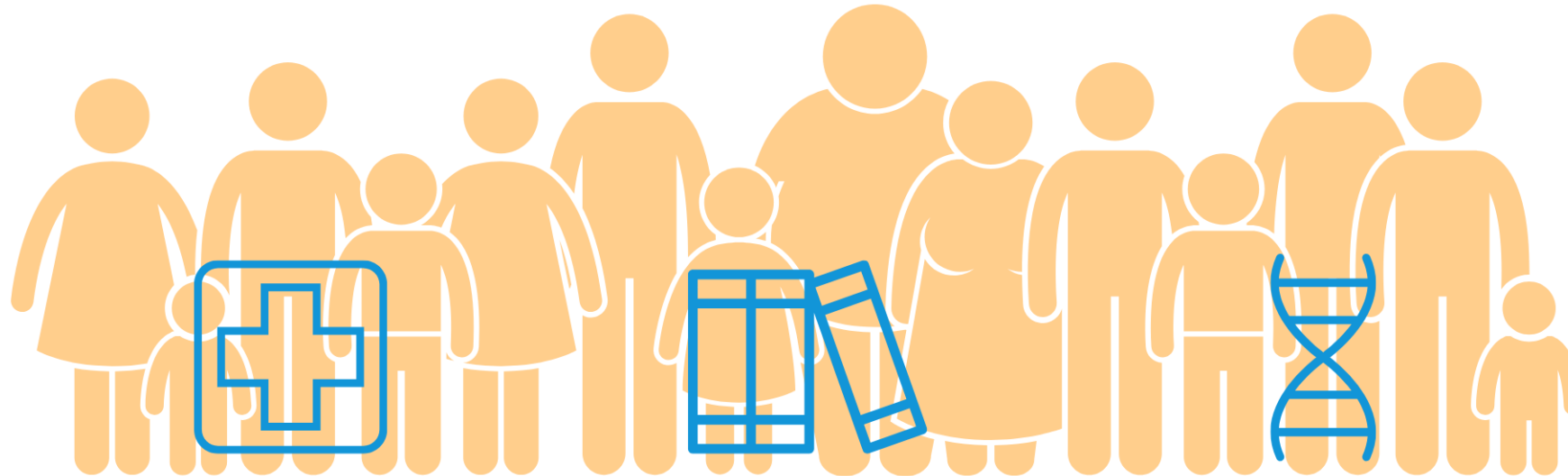
About TRDRP

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.

TRDRP: 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

2027 Smoke- and Vape-Free Scholars Initiative

The Smoke- and Vape-Free Scholars Initiative

- TRDRP is committed to stimulating student enthusiasm for tobacco-related research and fostering engagement and persistence of the next generation of researchers.
- The SVFSI supports a partnership between California State Universities (CSUs)/California Community Colleges (CCCs) and doctorate-granting institutions to administer mentorship and training programs.



SVFSI Programs

- **Programs provide mentorship, research training, and participation in local tobacco control advocacy projects.**
- **Any undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and master's-level students from CSU/CCCs, particularly from Tobacco Priority Populations, defined as groups who:**
 - 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.

Applicants will propose a theme and SVFSI research experiences relevant to tobacco control issues for one or more tobacco priority populations

Current research priorities:

- Research in Support of the California Endgame Initiative;
- Social and Behavioral Prevention and Treatment;
- State and Local Tobacco Policy Research;
- Tobacco-Related Diseases;
- Environmental Exposure and Toxicology; and
- Neuroscience of Nicotine Addiction and Treatment.

*See Appendix A of the
2027 Core Call for
Applications
for additional details*

Smoke and Vape Free Scholars Initiative

Overview of Program Awards

CSU/CCC

Co-Principal Investigator

CSU/CCC Institution

- Administer program
- Oversee student selection process
- Oversee tobacco control and advocacy education

CSU: California State University

CCC: California Community College

Collaboration

- Match scholars & research mentors
- Provide mentor training
- Identify tobacco control projects and mentors*
- Collaborate with TRDRP on Kick-Off and Scholar Meetings

**Projects and mentors may be based at other organizations, such as public health departments or community-based organizations*

Research

Co-Principal Investigator

Research Institution

- Oversee process for identifying research mentors
- Provide mentored research experiences

SVFSI Award Mechanism

	Max Award (Direct Costs)	Max Award Duration (Years)	Purpose of Award
Program Award	\$1,150,000	4	To support the development and administration of partnered mentor & training programs that enable undergraduate, post-bac and master's-level students from CSU/CCCs to conduct tobacco-related research projects in a mentor's laboratory or team, while also engaging in local tobacco control activities and participating in other educational activities.

*See the 2027 SVFSI RFA
for additional details on cost
and expense guidelines*

SVFSI Award Categories

Category	Maximum Amounts (Direct Costs)
Administrative Funds	\$400,000 total (\$100,000 per year)
Scholar Funds	\$600,000 total (15 scholars * \$40,000 per scholar)
Mentor Funds	\$150,000 total (15 research & 15 advocacy mentors)

Application Process

Step 1: Submit a Letter of Intent

LOI Components:

- Lay Abstract
- Specific Aims
- CSU/CCC Co-PI and Research Inst. Co-PI must be named.
 - **Applicant PI:** CSU/CCC Co-PI/organization is responsible for officially submitting materials in **SmartSimple (grantmaking platform)**.
 - The partner Co-PI's name and institution should be entered in the LOI form.

Step 2: Full Application

- TRDRP staff review LOIs:
 - Eligibility for the Grant Mechanism
 - Alignment with TRDRP research priorities
- Invitation to Full Application will be sent out on **September 8**
 - The submitting Co-PI designated as **Applicant PI** adds the partner Co-PI in SmartSimple.

Resubmissions

- A resubmission is an unfunded SVFSI application that was submitted as a new application in the 2026 (T36...) cycle and is resubmitted under the current 2027 Call.
- Resubmitted applications can submit a 2-page resubmission statement immediately preceding the SVFSI Program Plan:
 - Detail how the proposal addresses previous reviewers' concerns.
 - Summarize any substantial additions, deletions, and changes made to the proposal.
 - Changes should be emphasized within the text of the Program Plan.

Peer Review Scoring Criteria

- Applications are scored individually during peer review on the NIH 1–9 Scale
- **3 Review Criteria Sets:**
 - Set 1 – Impact (30%)
 - Set 2 – Program Quality (50%)
 - Set 3 – Feasibility (20%)

Review Criteria: Set 1 – Impact

- Impact on Research Pipeline
- Impact on Scholars

Review Criteria: Set 2 – Program Quality

- Scholar Recruitment Plan
- Tobacco Control/Advocacy Projects & Educational Programming
- Mentoring Plan
- Administration & Evaluation – Collaboration, Communication Plans

Review Criteria: Set 3 – Feasibility

- Team
- Access to Students
- Institutions
- Institutional Support

Unscored Review Criteria

- Budgets:
 - **2 Budgets** – 1 for the CSU/CC and 1 for the Research Inst.
 - **Subcontracts** are allowed for each Co-PI organization; must be well-justified.
 - **Out-of-state** subcontracts and collaborations must be well-justified.
 - *Funding for out-of-state expenses is extremely limited.*
- Additional Criteria:
 - 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.

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.

Review SVFSI Resources



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» [TRDRP'S FUNDED RESEARCH DATABASE](#)

» [THIRDHAND SMOKE RESEARCH CONSORTIUM](#)

» [SMOKE- AND VAPE- FREE SCHOLAR INITIATIVE \(SVFSI\)](#)

» [COMMUNITY-PARTNERED RESEARCH](#)

» [TOBACCO POLICY RESEARCH CENTERS](#)

SMOKE- AND VAPE- FREE SCHOLAR INITIATIVE (SVFSI)

Funded awards will support mentorship and training activities that include enabling undergraduate, post-bac and master's level students from CSU/CCCs to conduct tobacco-related research projects in a mentor's laboratory or team, while also engaging in local tobacco control activities and participating in other educational activities.

Welcome to the Smoke- and Vape-Free Scholar Initiative (SVFSI) resources website. We hope you will find these resources helpful in planning and executing parts of the SVFSI or other initiatives aimed at building a workforce representing different tobacco priority populations in tobacco control, prevention or health equity. This is an active website that we periodically update, so please visit more than once.

[READ THE 2026 CALL FOR SVFSI APPLICATIONS AND APPLY HERE](#)

Resources

[List of SVFSI Program Grantees \(Updated June 2026\)](#)

[Educational resources on tobacco prevention and control \(Updated June 2026\)](#)

[Resources for mentoring trainees \(updated June 2026\)](#)

<https://trdrp.org/our-impact/svfsi-resources.html>

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

TOBACCO-RELATED DISEASE RESEARCH PROGRAM

SMARTSIMPLE SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

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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

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

Download instructions

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

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

Templates and Instructions:
[Instructions_placeholder.docx](#)
11.2 KB - 08/15/2019 10:45am

Total Files: 1

[Preview](#)

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

Application ID: B26TR1198

* Project Title: Please enter the project title here
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](#) [NEXT >](#)

Preview your Submission

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

HomeAvailable Funding OpportunitiesHistorical ApplicationsGrantee InstructionsOpen Calls (Testing)

🏠 Main

📄 Notes

🖨️ Preview

TITLE PAGEAPPLICANT / PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORPROJECT INFORMATIONPROJECT CONTACTSBUDGET

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



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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.

1. Predoctoral Awards

Support graduate-level research and help build a foundation for independent research careers or alternative careers in tobacco control.

2. 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 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

Q & A

SmartSimple Questions:

RGPOgrants@ucop.edu

Programmatic Questions:

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