

**TRDRP 2018 Call for Applications Informational Webinar  
Questions and Answers**

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS and ELIGIBILITY**

**Q: Is it possible to get a copy of the application form templates without actually submitting a LOI? (For example, if I want to share the predoctoral fellowship forms with students so they can prepare to write a proposal, before anyone actually submits an application)**

A: No. You will need to submit an LOI and the LOI needs to be approved before you are given access to the application forms.

**Q: Can an organization with multiple business units or teams of researchers submit multiple proposals?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Does the PI need to be at an institution in California or can PI's be outside of CA? What about co-PI's outside CA? Do you allow multiple PI's with non-CA investigators?**

A: The PI must be in California. We do not allow co-PI's, but we allow co-Investigators (Co-Is) which must be based at a California institution. Collaborators can support in-kind work out of state, but you cannot charge support out of state.

**Q: I am from a CBO and have functioned as a PI for R21 and PI for subcontracts. Would I qualify to be the principal PI for the High Impact Pilot research Award?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Will you be accepting resubmissions from last cycle?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Can a research scientist with PI status apply for the New Investigator award?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Is a proposal (i.e., treating arsenic in water) eligible for award consideration if it is for lung cancer prevention, but is not directly related to tobacco use?**

A: Yes.

**Q: I understand that new LOI is required for resubmission, but I cannot find any guideline. Does the title of LOI have to be the same as original submission? Where in the LOI submission should we note that this is a resubmission?**

A: Yes, the new LOI is required for resubmission. No, you can revise the title. Once the LOI is approved and you work on the application there is a place where it ask you if this is a LOI resubmission. You can get more information to submit and LOI at <http://trdrp.org/files/2018-how-to-submit-a-proposal.pdf>.

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**Q: Can we submit in the second cycle as a new submission? Or is the second cycle only for resubmissions?**

A: You may submit both new proposals as well as re-submissions for the second cycle (2018B).

**Q: What exactly does 100% effort mean for the postdoctoral award? Does this award fund travel for conferences or other expenses such as the postdoc salary?**

A: To have a TRDRP postdoctoral award you need to commit 100% effort on your research, so you cannot have another award from another institution. This award can fund travel to conferences, you will need to build it in your grant application and you will need to describe it in your budget. You can use it for research expenses, but keep in mind there is not enough money to fully support salary as well as other activities that becomes your decision based on your research.

**Q: I am a Dental Public Health resident at UCSF, my program would be for two years. I would like to apply for postdoc award, what do you mean by 100% effort?**

A: 100% of your research effort needs to be allocated to the project supported by this award.

**Q: Is priority given to applications from minority institutions such as Charles Drew University? Additionally, can you apply if you come from a hospital based research institution such as Cedars-Sinai Medical Center?**

A: No, there is no scoring procedure or process for special consideration for minority serving institutions they will go through the same peer review criteria. Yes, you can apply from a hospital based research institution.

**Q: The PI's eligibility regarding application for "Neuroscience of Nicotine Addiction and Treatment" theme. If investigator's expertise is outside the area of neuroscience, but the project, new data and ideas have a direct and strong connection to the mentioned above topic; does it make this investigator eligible? Simply, do you welcome proposals from experts outside of the field, who can make a difference in tobacco related research?**

A: Yes the investigator is eligible. Absolutely and make sure that the reviewers believe that you know about tobacco related research and you might want to take a look at your research team.

**Q: Is it possible to apply for two different awards? Postdoc and new investigator, for example?**

A: Yes. You may submit more than one application providing that they are for different grant types. However, only one TRDRP grant will be awarded to an individual PI in any given cycle. However, the new investigator is a non-mentoring grant type, and the applicant must have independent PI status.

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**GENERAL QUESTIONS**

**Q: Will these slides be available?**

A: Yes, these slides will be available after August 3<sup>rd</sup> and you can access them at <http://trdrp.org/funding-opportunities/index.html>.

**Q: If an organization is registered and headquartered in CA but has staff in other offices across the country, are staff in other offices precluded from working on projects funded under this mechanism?**

A: Yes. Except in rare and strongly justified instances, no research staff or research collaborators can be supported through these awards.

**Q: If data for a project was collected from participants both in California and in one other state, would this project qualify for TRDRP funding?**

A: Yes, as long as the out of state data is pre-existing and all data analyses are conducted by investigators within California.

**Q: I am part of a team, all located within California, doing research on prenatal smoking in the State of X. We would like to expand our work by beginning to explore the same associations in California. From the call today, it seems that we should focus our proposed project on the CA expansion, and not on our ongoing work in X. Is that correct?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Is it helpful or confusing to emphasize that a proposal addresses more than one research priority category? (e.g., a neuroscience project that also has implications for cerebrovascular disease)**

A: This is helpful.

**Q: Does a particular rare disease qualify for diversity award? For e.g., my area of interest is in congenital heart disease which is relatively rare field within cardiology? Or does diversity mean diverse in racial or other backgrounds?**

A: No, a rare disease does not qualify for a diversity award, but in your area of interest you can submit a full application for a research award. For the Cornelius Hopper Diversity Awards, the person needs to be in a social underrepresented minority, so it can be ethnic, gender, hardship, etc., OR the research area must be in health disparities. For example, there is a certain group of people that have a higher risk of certain diseases than another group defined by multiple categories, so that is what we mean about diversity, it does not mean biological diversity.

**Q: But the details on the full application are only available “after the LOI is approved”, and planning a grant this large requires a clear idea as to what is entailed.**

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A: The LOI is very simple this year and has fewer requirements, and we encourage early submission of an LOI so that applicants have access to application materials.

**Q: Can one PI submit multiple proposals?**

A: Yes, but you cannot do it for the same mechanism and we can only fund one proposal if they are both found to be meritorious.

**Q: Just to clarify, could one PI submit both a high-impact pilot and a high-impact research project? Or just one research award and one training award?**

A: Yes, a PI can submit both a high impact pilot and high impact research project awards, but if they are both meritorious we can only fund one of them.

**Q: Can a California-based project have non-California consultants?**

A: We have limited money from Pop 99 that can go towards out of state research activity. It is important to justify the need for a non-California consultant in your proposal. You will need to provide evidence that there are no consultants in California that can do the work.

**Q: When discussing policy and the impact of global activity on state and local policy you mentioned "specifically Pacific-rim countries", does that mean you are prioritizing this region under global activity?**

A: No, we are not prioritizing this region. It is only mentioned in the Mackay Scholar Award, as an example of a region with important tobacco trade agreement implications.

**Q: I am a postdoc and I would like to apply for the New Investigator Award. I realize this is a non-mentored grant but is there a possibility or a situation in which an individual can receive this award without having a faculty position?**

A: No, but if there is a commitment from your dept. that if your grant is funded that you will be elevated to a faculty position by the start date of the award. You will need to provide supporting documentation with your application submission.

**Q: For mentored awards, is it customary to have one main sponsor for TRDRP, or sponsors and co-sponsors (NIH-style)?**

A: Typically we require one primary sponsor, but co-sponsors are often listed on the grant.

**Q: We have a program we'd like to adapt for a high impact pilot award. Our software vendor that would do some of the programming for us is out of state. Would funding for the software vendor be allowed as a subcontract?**

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A: Vendor services or purchases in limited instances are allowed if you can justify no other alternatives within California. What is not allowed are programmatic intellectual collaborations from out of state investigators (no out of state PIs, Co-Is).

**Q: Do you have any suggestion to any database that helps to track information about tobacco/substance use?**

A: There are funded state and federal databases that track tobacco/substance use at the population level (example: CHIS, NSDUH, and BRFSS).

**Q: Can you please elaborate on those priorities that include a cannabis focus under TRDRP? Is it acceptable to submit a project whose primary focus is on cannabis or cannabinoids? Also, does TRDRP anticipate receiving any revenue from Prop 64 to fund research?**

A: Per Proposition 56, our scope allows us to include cannabis effects on cancer, lung, heart, oral or other tobacco related diseases. We cannot fund studies that look solely on cannabis without a consideration of health consequences. We are not receiving funds from Prop 64.

**Q: Is this a limited competition submission? In other words, will you accept more than one proposal from each institution?**

A: No, there is not a limitation for an institution to submit a proposal.

**Q: Does safety (accident and violence prevention) count as a health consequence re: cannabis?**

A: The health consequences should be cancer, cardiovascular, lung, oral, or other tobacco-related diseases with potential contribution and relation with cannabis.

**Q: Is social media research responsive to this RFA?**

A: Yes, it could fall under tobacco policy, prevention, and possibly cessation/treatment.

**Q: I am sorry for asking again since this has been already answered. But I am not able to find the details about information needed in LOI. Can you please direct me to the link or the details of how long the LOI needs to be and all the other info. needed in it?**

A: You can get more information at <http://trdrp.org/files/2018-how-to-submit-a-proposal.pdf>.

**Q: Will there eventually be a MRDRP for cannabis research?**

A: Not that we are aware of.

**Q: Should we avoid topics that could potentially be funded by FDA CTP?**

A: Our prior years we have tried to steer away from topics that are funded by CTP FDA. We are trying to be non-duplicative, so if you know that CTP FDA is about to fund a topic keep in mind that our reviewers

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will be aware of that. If topics are California specific or policy issues that CTP FDA will not touch, but needed in the field, those areas we are interested in supporting. If you submitted a proposal and they were not friendly to those topics and there is California relevance with state and local policy issues, then forward your proposals to us.

**Q: I graduated from my doctoral program in 2012 and did not have a post-doc. Am I eligible for the new investigator mechanism?**

A: To be eligible for the new investigator mechanism you have to be within five years after you ended your doctoral program. If you were to be funded the award starts in January and February of next year it will put you right outside that window because it will be a little over five years. By the start of the award you still have to have the new investigator status, so you will not be eligible.

**Q: What are TRDRP policies on letters of support?**

A: There are five questions for the letter of support. There is an abstract that is 300 words or less to describe your research project so we can get a sense of your topic area and to make sure that it is responsive to one of our priorities. If the question is in regards to a letters of recommendation, training awards generally require 3 letters of support, including one from the mentor. Other grant types, do not require letters of support, but can be included to further support the application, e.g. a letter of collaboration.

**Q: How important is it to have a PI who has worked with TRDRP previously? What about a PI who has never acted as PI before?**

A: The PI does not have to have previously worked with TRDRP. Your institution needs to submit the grant on your behalf, so you have to make sure that you have PI status with your institution.

**Q: Can we submit proposals for both cycle A and B (they would be different proposals)?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Can you submit an application as an MPI, where the PIs are at two different California institutions?**

A: No, you cannot submit as an MPI, one person has to be a PI and another can be a co-Investigator (Co-I) because we are not splitting grants where each PI manages their own grant, but you can do a subcontract arrangement where the PI prime institution manages that subcontract.

**HIGH IMPACT RESEARCH PROJECT AWARD**

**Q: What goes into a full High Impact Award? In particular, how many pages and sections? This information allows one to plan better. Right now this is not available.**

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A: The research plan section for the High Impact Award is limited to 10-pages. Submit an LOI to access the application material and instructions on how to prepare an application for submission.

**MACKAY CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC RIM TOBACCO POLICY SCHOLAR AWARD**

**Q: Is additional information available about the MacKay policy scholar award? (e.g., who is eligible, what kind of policy work would qualify?)**

A: Yes, you can access more information at <http://trdrp.org/funding-opportunities/award-mechanisms/mackay-policy-scholar.html>.

**NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD**

**Q: Is the "new investigator" considered someone at the beginning of their research career, or could it be someone who is new to tobacco-related research, but has other public health research experience?**

A: To be eligible for a new investigator award, the applicant needs to be within five years of their terminal degree or the end date of their postdoctoral training at the start of the award. The applicant should have the PI status at the sponsoring institution.

**Q: Could you please define "New Investigator"? Is there a 10-year cap on post terminal degree? If PI has R01 on unrelated topic, will she/he qualify?**

A: There is a five year cap on post terminal degree or after postdoctoral training ends. If you have an NIH R01 grant it would disqualify you as a new investigator.

**Q: I just started a research lab as an assistant professor. When would you recommend applying for the new investigator award? I noticed part of the evaluation is on the "research team" - is this your lab members?**

A: Yes, we would recommend you apply for a new investigator award. "Research Team" usually refers to other collaborating investigators as well as other key personnel.

**PREDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AWARD**

**Q: I am someone who is finishing a PhD next Spring 2018. Would it be appropriate to apply in any of these cycles as predoctoral student, or would a different grant type be more sensible?**

A: Since you will no longer be a predoctoral student by the time the award is made, you should not apply for this grant type. If you are able to identify a postdoctoral mentor and institution prior to the application due dates, you could consider applying for a postdoctoral award. You would need to be a postdoctoral fellow by the Award start date.

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**Q: Are students eligible to apply for the predoctoral research fellowship award if they have not yet passed their qualifying exam? Must the student have advanced to candidacy before they apply for or accept the grant?**

A: Predoctoral award applicants do not need to have passed their qualifying exam or to have advanced to candidacy to be eligible to submit an application.

**RESEARCH PRIORITY-RELATED QUESTIONS**

**Q: Is Genetics, big data-based population science and research on biomarkers a focus area as well for lung cancer?**

A: Yes.

**Q: For “Scientific evaluation of culturally sensitive and effective training models to prepare physicians, nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals to address tobacco and cannabis use in diverse communities”, does it need to be combination tobacco/ marijuana use, or can it be exclusively about marijuana use?**

A: We are encouraging a focus on tobacco and marijuana use, but we are not excluding cannabis focused observational research proposals.

**Q: Please clarify the scope of non-tobacco research that is acceptable. Does this mean that TRDRP now funds, for example, research concerning patterns of healthcare use among survivors of non-tobacco related cancers?**

A: If the scope is non-tobacco research there needs to be a link to a health consequence, so it can be non-tobacco related cancer.

**Q: Do oral health research projects need to be tobacco-related? Can they be research projects into how to reduce children’s oral health disparities?**

A: While tobacco-related oral health research is prioritized, other oral health research including reducing children’s oral health disparities is also acceptable and encouraged.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS GRANT**

**Q: Regarding the \$5k Special Projects grant for scientific conferences, research dissemination, etc.; is there only one of these funded in California per funding cycle? Are they connected to the larger research grants?**

A: The Special Projects grant is intended for dissemination activities, it is very short and time limited. This mechanism is on hold until next year and we do fund more than one per cycle because it comes in



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on a rolling bases. The larger conference grant is up to \$50K and is accepted on a rolling basis that can support scientific meetings for multiple PIs to disseminate their research.

**STAFF CONTACTS**

**Q: Which program officer should I contact regarding the priority area of Tobacco-related health disparities?**

A: Norval Hickman and you can get his contact information at <http://trdrp.org/about/staff.html>.

**Q: What is the name of the program officer for the state and local tobacco control health policy track? Also, would their contact information be located on your website?**

A: Carmela Lomonaco and Tyler Martz. You can get their contact information at <http://trdrp.org/about/staff.html>.

**Q: Who is the program officer for cardiovascular and cerebrovascular?**

A: Laura Packel and you can get her contact information at <http://trdrp.org/about/staff.html>.

**SUPPLEMENT AWARDS**

**Q: Is the Hopper supplement only available if the mentor is TRDRP funded?**

A: Yes, for currently funded PIs who have at least 1-year left on their award.

**Q: Does the Hopper Diversity Award require funding of a parent project or can it be stand alone?**

A: Yes, it does require a parent project that is active with at least a year left for that grant if you want to apply for the small amount of one year. If you want to apply for two years you will need to have two years left on the grant or you can apply for a no cost extension to make sure you have that time on that grant as being active for that fellow.

**Q: For the Student Research Supplement Award, does the student need to be currently enrolled or can they apply if they are interested in going into research?**

A: The student needs to be enrolled at the time of application or accepted to be enrolled by the start of the award. Supplement request are made by the sponsoring mentor at the time of application submission, or at the annual progress report submission.

**Q: Can the supplemental \$20,000 researcher awards be applied to the Postdoctoral Research Grants (requiring additional personnel to complete the project)?**

A: No.