

TRDRP Trainee Full Applicant Informational Webinar

2027 Call

September 24, 2026

Marjannie Akintunde, Ph.D., Program Officer, TRDRP

Rebecca Williams, Ph.D., Program Officer, TRDRP

Ginny Delaney, Ph.D., Senior Program Officer, TRDRP

Webinar Overview

Programmatic Overview

- TRDRP's Mission
- Key Dates
- Key Changes to the Call
- Tips for Preparing and Submitting your Application
- Understanding Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Grant Type and Scoring Criteria
- Key Guidance to Applicants

Q & A (end of this webinar)

SmartSimple Application Overview Slides available on our website

How to Submit a Proposal in SmartSimple (LOI and Full Application)

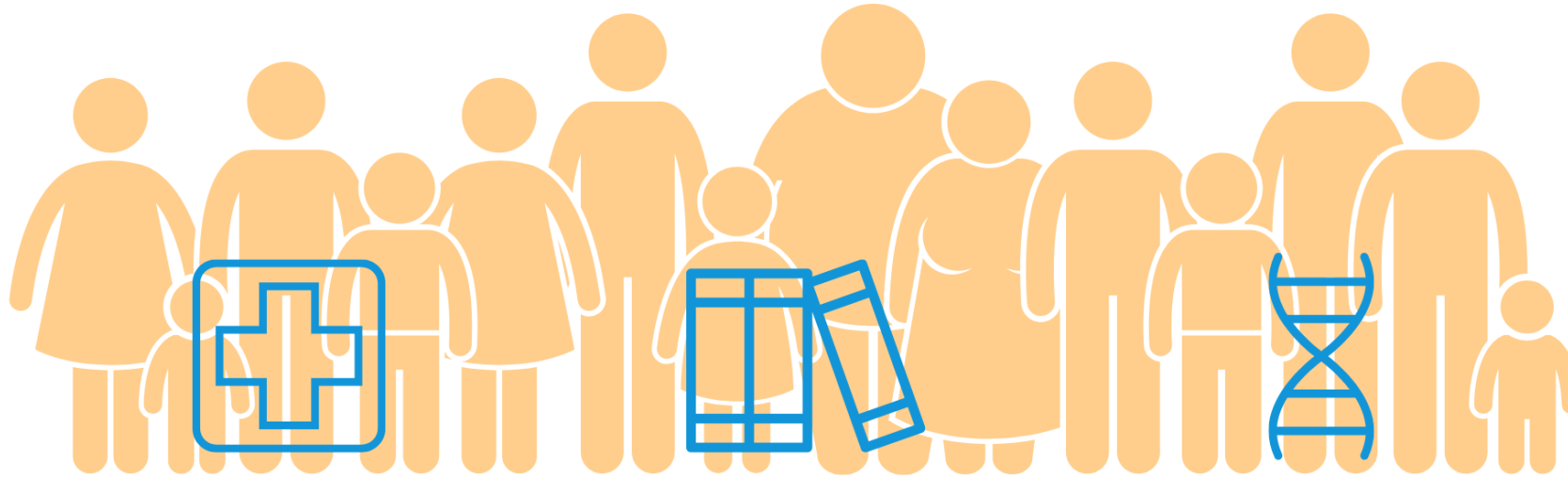
TRDRP Vision and Mission Statements

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

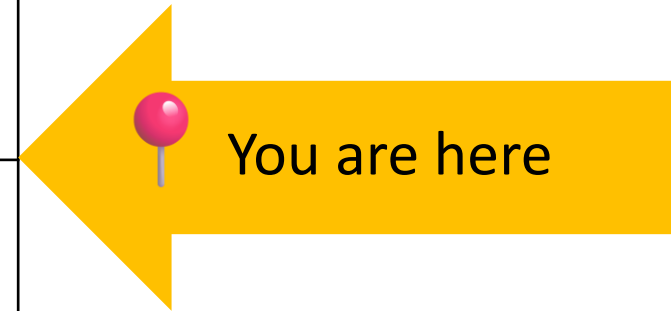
Tobacco Priority Populations



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

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 <u>Late submissions will not be accepted</u>
Applicants Notified	April 2027
Awards Start	July 1, 2027

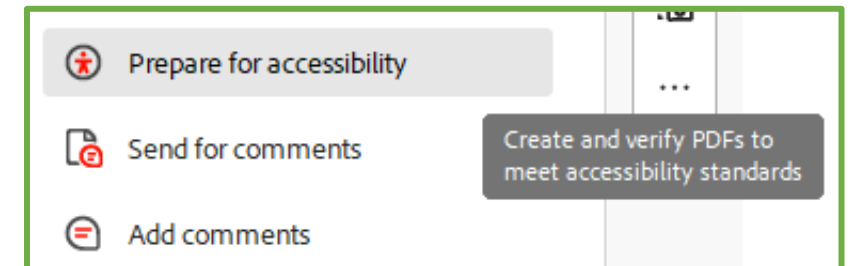


2027 Call for Applications: Key Changes

- 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](#).

Example Budget Justification

- 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 .



Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Awards

Application materials reflect the programmatic goals of these awards.

Postdoctoral

- 10 page research plan
- 4 page training plan
- Review Criteria
 - Criteria-1 (40%)
 - **Responsiveness**; Approach; Community Engagement Plan
 - Criteria-2 (40%)
 - Training plan **and IDP**; Applicant qualifications
 - Criteria-3 (20%)
 - Mentor's qualifications (**grantsmanship**), Environment

Predoctoral

- 6 page research plan
- 6 page training plan
- Review Criteria
 - Criteria-1 (50%)
 - Training plan **and IDP**; Applicant qualifications
 - Criteria-2 (30%)
 - Mentor's qualifications (**grantsmanship**), Environment
 - Criteria-3 (20%)
 - **Responsiveness**; Approach; Community Engagement Plan

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 ≠ Community Engagement
- Funds may be included in the project budget
- Review Appendix E of 2027 Core Call for examples



Priority Population Coordinating Center



Learn more on our
community voices page



Community Engagement: Postdoctoral Award Review Criteria

- Does the applicant propose a sound approach to engaging communities affected by tobacco use in either a collaborative partnership or by proactively informing about the nature and significance of the research and research outcomes?
- Does the applicant propose an activity that is appropriate to their proposed tobacco-related research topic, their proposed career path, and community needs?
- To what extent does the dissemination of relevant results go beyond the research community and include channels and tools targeting clinicians, public health practitioners, advocates, policymakers and the general public?

See Appendix B and E of the 2027 Call for Applications for additional details when developing your Community Engagement Plan

Community Engagement: Predoctoral Award Review Criteria

- Does the applicant propose a sound approach to engaging communities affected by tobacco use in either a collaborative partnership or by proactively informing about the nature and significance of the research and research outcomes?
- Does the applicant propose an activity that is complementary to their proposed tobacco-related research topic and career stage?
- Are there adequate resources to the applicant to carry out the proposed activities?

See Appendix B and E of the 2027 Call for Applications for additional details when developing your Community Engagement Plan

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. Should be well-justified (see slide 6 for examples)*

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 B and E of the 2027 Call for Applications for detailed review criteria and instructions for 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 B and E of the 2027 Call for Applications for detailed review criteria and instructions for 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

TOBACCO-RELATED DISEASE RESEARCH PROGRAM

SMARTSIMPLE SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

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Appendix A: Full Application Template Upload Requirements.....	28
Core Awards:	28
Community-Partnered Participatory Research Awards (CPPRA):	30
Maternal Smoking Cessation Initiative Award (MSCI):	31
Smoke- and Vape-Free Scholars Initiative	
Appendix B: Focus Areas.....	
Appendix C: Project Personnel Roles –	
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](#) [NEXT](#)

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

ABOUT | DONATE | CONTACT

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

Preview your Submission

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

Home Available Funding Opportunities Historical Applications Grantee Instructions Open Calls (Testing)

Home 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 07/01/2027 ?
Date:

Proposed Project End 06/30/2029 ?
Date:

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



[ABOUT](#) | [DONATE](#) | [CONTACT](#)



[WHAT WE FUND](#) | [OUR IMPACT](#) | [NEWS AND EVENTS](#) | [COMMUNITY-PARTNERED RESEARCH](#) | [TRAINEE CORNER](#) |

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.



Preparing Your Application

*Appendices B & E tells you **WHERE** in the application to address **WHAT** according to the 3 Review Criteria*

Required Pieces	Who to work with
Letters of Recommendation (mentor plus at least 2 others)	Start early! Invite your referees and monitor their progress in SS.
- Research Plan - PI (that's you) Biosketch - Community Engagement	You develop these and get feedback from your mentor, colleagues, where needed
- Mentor Training Experience - Mentor's Biosketch	Your mentor is responsible for developing and providing both documents
Training Plan and IDP	Developing the IDP and building the training plan is a team effort between you and your mentor. The IDP is a living document and can be updated over time.
- Facilities - Human Subjects Accrual - Vertebrate Animals	Your research group may have templates you can use as a starting place
- Budget (minimum of 75%) - Institutional Contacts	Work with your department administrator, graduate student/postdoctoral office, or campus sponsored projects office.

Next Steps

 Appendices B & E are resources for applicants that we recommend you consult early and often

 Make a plan to get your application in on time- **Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 12 p.m. NOON PT**

- Invite referees and monitor their progress
- Work on a budget with your department administrator
 - Proposition 56 requires that all TRDRP research dollars must be used within California – plan your project and budget accordingly
- Connect with your Sponsored Projects Office (they must submit your application)
- Draft your research plan with enough lead time to get feedback

 Contact trdrp@ucop.edu with any questions

Additional Guidance

- **Programmatic Guidance**

- *Becky Theilmann, PhD* – Rebecca.Theilmann@ucop.edu
 - Program Officer for Biomedical Sciences
- *Marjannie Akintunde, PhD* – Marjannie.Akintunde@ucop.edu
 - Program Officer for Biomedical Sciences and Health Equity
- *Rebecca Williams, PhD* – Rebecca.Williams@ucop.edu
 - Program Officer for Social Behavioral Sciences

- **SmartSimple Guidance**

- rgpogrants@ucop.edu

The background of the slide is a dense, overlapping collage of numerous small, rectangular sticky notes. These notes are in various pastel colors: light blue, light green, light pink, and light yellow. Each sticky note features a large, dark grey question mark. The notes are scattered across the entire frame, creating a textured, busy appearance.

Thank you!
Questions?