

Center for Tobacco Products

Scientific Conference Grant Program Priorities

Background

In 2009, the [Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act \(Tobacco Control Act\)](#) was signed into law, giving the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority to regulate the manufacture, marketing, and distribution of tobacco products in order to protect public health. A tobacco product is defined as “any product made or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, including any component, part or accessory of a tobacco product (except for raw materials other than tobacco used in manufacturing a component, part, or accessory or a tobacco product)”. The Tobacco Control Act immediately gave FDA authority over cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, roll-your-own tobacco and smokeless tobacco. It is anticipated that FDA will deem other tobacco products that meet the statutory definition to be subject to the Food Drug and Cosmetic Act.

Center for Tobacco Products

The Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) oversees the implementation of the Tobacco Control Act. CTP’s mission is to protect Americans from tobacco-related death and disease by regulating the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products and by educating the public, especially young people, about tobacco products and the dangers their use poses to themselves and others. Some of CTP’s authorities include:

- Restricting the marketing of tobacco products to minors;
- Requiring new health warning labels for cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products;
- Prohibiting marketing measures that are misleading to consumers;
- Establishing tobacco product standards;
- Requiring industry reporting of tobacco product ingredient and constituent data, including a description of the nicotine content and delivery mechanisms and
- Enforcing the Tobacco Control Act and related regulations.

Scientific Conference Grant (SCG) Program

The FDA recognizes the value of supporting high quality scientific conferences. A small scientific conference is defined as a symposium, seminar, workshop, or any formal meeting, whether conducted face-to-face or virtually to exchange information and explore a defined subject, issue, or area of concern impacting the public's health within the scope of the FDA's mission. Support of such meetings under the FDA's [Scientific Conference Grant Program \(R13\)](#) is distributed via a competitive process resulting in the issuance of grant awards between FDA and selected recipients and is contingent upon the fiscal and programmatic interests and priorities of the FDA's respective Offices and Centers. The primary beneficiary under an SCG grant is the funding recipient, as a proxy for the “public,” as opposed to the Federal government. SCG grants are not appropriate for conferences targeting a predominately federal audience.

CTP Funding Priorities under the FDA Scientific Conference Grant Program

CTP will consider proposals to conduct small scientific conferences that align with its mission and funding priorities. Highlights of CTP’s priorities under SCG are listed below.

Science--the science that informs and supports the regulatory and other public health goals and objectives of CTP, including:

- Examining the diversity of tobacco products, including constituents, components, and design features, toxicity and addiction, and consumer use behaviors and perceptions;
- Reducing addiction to tobacco products through regulation;
- Reducing toxicity and carcinogenicity of tobacco products and smoke;
- Understanding adverse health consequences of tobacco use;
- Understanding impact of tobacco product marketing; and
- Using science to improve communications about tobacco products.

Policy--policies and initiatives that can reduce tobacco use and its harms as quickly and effectively as possible, including:

- Understanding how economics and policies affect tobacco product use and health;
- Understanding the impact of FDA tobacco regulations on the public health, including the impact on sub-populations;
- Understanding the impact of state and local tobacco policies within CTP's jurisdiction; and
- Understanding the impact of the various components of labeling and marketing (e.g., text, colors, images) on tobacco product use and appeal.

Compliance and Enforcement--compliance and enforcement of the Tobacco Control Act, including:

- Issuing Good Manufacturing Practice regulations for the manufacture of tobacco products.

Regulation--advance public health and facilitate industry compliance through regulations, including:

- Adhering to all executive orders and applicable requirements related to rulemaking; and
- Developing clearly written regulatory documents.

Health Communication and Education--promote public health by leading comprehensive, truthful, science-based public education efforts to protect our nation from the dangers of tobacco, including:

- Developing persuasive public education programs for key audiences that inspire attitudinal and behavioral change;
- Building, managing and leveraging sustainable, valuable, and mutually-beneficial relationships with all CTP stakeholders;
- Piloting cutting-edge public education ideas and innovations; and
- Establishing comprehensive formative and evaluative research programs to effectively measure the impact of public education efforts.

Funding Limitations:

SCG grants funded through FDA's Center for Tobacco Products may not be used for any other purpose other than those related to the regulation of tobacco products under the Tobacco Control Act. These grant funds should not duplicate or supplant existing tobacco control, prevention, or cessation efforts, but can enhance existing efforts relevant to FDA/CTP and the Tobacco Control Act. In addition, SCG funds should not be used to finance other tobacco control areas such as surveillance, price and tax measures, clean indoor air laws, tobacco control compliance and enforcement efforts, and treatment services like quit lines, nicotine replacement therapy, or any other pharmaceutical or biomedical therapy.

For Further Information

A copy of the full SCG Funding Opportunity Announcement can be accessed via the World Wide Web at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-16-378.html>