

Eight Criteria from Cohen, et al.¹ for Accepting Tobacco Industry Funding, Compared to the Governance of the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World

Cohen, et al. Criterion	Foundation for a Smoke-Free World Governance
<p>1 Transparency and Independence The funding mechanism should be transparent and independent.</p>	<p>The Foundation discloses its funding source publicly on its website and funders are legally prohibited from having any influence over how the Foundation uses the funding.</p>
<p>2 Competitive Funding Process A competitive funding process should be in place to ensure high-quality science.</p>	<p>The Foundation will employ a competitive funding process in screening, reviewing and awarding grants and other distributions that ensures the grant selection process is open and transparent, and based on explicit, well-established scientific criteria.</p>
<p>3 Ownership of Data and Freedom to Publish Research endeavors should have scientific integrity to enable data and results to be used broadly.</p>	<p>To safeguard the scientific integrity of each research endeavor, the Foundation will ensure, unless prohibited by law, that grant recipients shall have the freedom to publish their findings, studies and results in the form submitted to the Foundation. Irrespective of which party owns the data, to the extent legally possible, the Foundation will require grant recipients to make their raw research data available for secondary analyses and review on an open-access platform.</p>
<p>4 Independent Research Agenda To ensure unbiased and relevant research results, the research agenda should be set independently of the tobacco industry and other interested parties.</p>	<p>The Foundation's peer-reviewed research agenda is being developed with input from the tobacco control community and other relevant experts through an open, transparent and public process.</p>
<p>5 Governance The credibility of a funding entity is enhanced when there is a transparent and effective governance structure. A Board of Directors would oversee the operation of all aspects of the funding agency and programs, without requiring approval from the sponsor.</p>	<p>All aspects of the Foundation's activities and research programs are overseen by an independent Board of Directors. The board functions completely independently of the Foundation's funders, with no industry representation on the board and no actions requiring approval from any funders.</p>
<p>6 Protection Against Conflict of Interest There should be a written conflict of interest policy and mechanisms for enforcement.</p>	<p>The Foundation maintains a written conflict of interest policy available publicly on its website that includes protections against potential conflicts of interest on the part of grant recipients and grant application reviewers.</p>
<p>7 Industry Public Relations Gains that Counteract Public Health Industry public relations gains realized from the funding of research that counteract public health should be minimized.</p>	<p>The Foundation's bylaws prohibit the Foundation's funders from citing the existence of the Foundation or its work as part of public relations or reputation programs. The Foundation will publish independent assessments of the tobacco industry's activities in relation to tobacco control.</p>
<p>8 Feasibility Short-term and long-term feasibility of achieving the various models should be disclosed in order to have a realistic vision of what might be possible.</p>	<p>The Foundation will regularly commission third-party reports on progress towards reducing deaths and harm from smoking and eliminating smoking worldwide.</p>

- ¹ Cohen JE, Zeller M, Eissenberg T, Parascandola M, et al. Criteria for evaluating tobacco control research funding programs and their application to models that include financial support from the tobacco industry. *Tob Control* 2009; 18(3): 228-34. Published online June 2009. DOI:10.1136/tc.2008.027623 (Accessed October 27, 2017). <http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/18/3/228>.
- In a 2012 publication, The National Academies of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine) also called for a similar independent third-party research foundation structure for tobacco control research. This report can be accessed at: Institute of Medicine. 2012. *Scientific Standards for Studies on Modified Risk Tobacco Products*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/13294>.