

Health and Science Research Request for Proposal

TOPIC

Interventions for Smokers in Marginalized and Vulnerable Communities to Quit or Switch to Tobacco Harm-Reduction (THR) Products

Issue date	March 31, 2022
Closing date	May 16, 2022
Closing time	12:00 noon, Eastern Standard Time (EST)
Submit proposals to	(See submission instructions in RFP)
Financing instrument	Grant
Financing amount	Budget not to exceed US \$300,000 Paid in US dollars, amount consistent with proposal and work plan
Financing duration	Maximum of 6 months, consistent with proposal and work plan
Contact information	support@smokefreeworld.org

Introduction

Since 1990, the global prevalence of smoking has steadily declined. However, due to population growth, the total number of smokers has increased and gaps in health equity continue. Tobacco use, and consequently the economic and health burden of tobacco-related diseases, continues to disproportionately affect those most in need, including people residing in poverty, racial minorities, LGBTQ+ persons, indigenous populations, and those living with mental illness and substance use disorders. This inequity is echoed in the *2019 WHO Global Report on Trends in Prevalence of Tobacco Smoking 2000–2025*, which states that “even in countries where tobacco control is at an advanced level, still there are some people left behind, specifically those from marginalized groups.”¹

While the trends are well documented, there remains a critical gap in research and implementation of interventions focused on addressing the unmet needs of individuals who fall into these subgroups. Indeed, most cessation programs and efforts are targeted to politically dominant groups, missing opportunities to reduce smoking rates in minority communities.² There is a need for strengthened data collection efforts, including clinical trials to identify effective smoking cessation and harm-reduction strategies.

The Foundation for a Smoke-Free World (“the Foundation”) is seeking proposals for research that will lead to development of comprehensive studies and tools to assess and document the unique needs of underserved smokers, especially those residing in poverty, racial minorities, LGBTQ+ persons, indigenous populations, and those living with mental illness and substance use disorders, and the factors influencing their access to support for quitting or reducing the harms from smoking combustible cigarettes. The proposal should include recommendations for further action based on identified best practices and serve as a basis for the development of relevant and tailored interventions. This RFP seeks to support independent research that has the potential to build on the current evidence base and improve smoker outcomes in areas of unmet need that

¹<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-global-report-on-trends-in-prevalence-of-tobacco-use-2000-2025-third-edition>

²<https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/DAT-02-2020-0004/full/html>

are aligned with the [Foundation's strategy](#). Work done under this RFP will assist the Foundation in determining what (if any) studies and interventions should be carried forward.

Objective: Develop studies and tools to assess and document the unique needs of underserved smokers, including those residing in poverty, racial minorities, LGBTQ+ persons, indigenous populations, and those living with mental illness and substance use disorders, with a view to developing interventions to support their specific needs.

Deliverables

- Literature review of the current best-practice recommendations by international/national public and private entities for comprehensive tobacco harm-reduction and cessation programs targeting underserved populations
- Study design for assessing the unique needs of groups described above with completed study instruments tested in a focused/targeted community
- Memorandum of understanding (MoU) for partnership with relevant partners (if applicable)
- Comprehensive report on findings with recommendations for future work for further development and implementation of interventions for these groups/populations
- Ethical approval by relevant committee/authority in participating countries

The Foundation will evaluate the study designs and tools for their potential to deliver scientifically robust studies and fund the selected organization(s) to undertake these studies.

Expected Qualifications

Eligible institutions include all research and civil society organizations, especially those working with people of color, LGBTQ+ communities, indigenous populations, and people residing in poverty in developed and developing countries, with experience of developing interventions for public health programs and other multidisciplinary areas.

Proposals should be submitted by entities registered in their country of origin with an ability to accept research grants from not-for-profit foundations incorporated in the United States.

Geographic Focus

Global

Estimated Budget and Duration

- Budget not to exceed US \$300,000
- Duration not to exceed 6 months

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate submissions:

- Expertise and prior experience, including demonstrated experience on similar projects
- Research presence
- Ability to meet the objectives of the RFP
- Cost and timeline
- Adequate resources (quantity and type) to satisfy project scope and timeline
- Key organizational documents provided to the Foundation as part of the due diligence process, as outlined in [Grant Policies and Procedures](#)

The Foundation will prioritize proposals that demonstrate a commitment to our values, including diversity, equity, and inclusion, and that provide the Foundation with the opportunity to interact with diverse teams, bringing a range of perspectives.

Submission Instructions

Applications should be submitted through the Foundation's online portal, which can be accessed [here](#). This link will always start a new application form. Upon clicking the link, you will be prompted to log in, and then taken to the application form.

The application form has links to three templates, which are also listed here for your convenience:

- [Proposal template](#)
- [Budget template](#)
- [Work plan template](#)

You may save your application at any time by using the Save & Finish Later button at the end of each page.

To return to an in-progress application, [log in to the portal](#).

A list of application portal FAQs can be found [here](#).

If you have any technical issues, please contact the grants management team via support@smokefreeworld.org, and we will be happy to help.

Key Information

The Foundation may disclose proposals, documents, communications, and associated materials submitted in response to this RFP to its employees, consultants, legal counsel, contractors, and potential co-funders. The applicant should carefully consider the content of submitted materials if there is any concern about the impact of disclosure of confidential or proprietary information. Although submissions will not be disclosed publicly during the evaluation process, all funded projects (scoping and final awards) will be made public. The Foundation will work with awardees to ensure that any materials made public will not disclose protected information.

To be considered for an award, the applicant agrees that the Foundation may:

- Amend or cancel the RFP, in whole or in part, at any time
- Extend the deadline for submitting responses
- Determine whether a response does or does not substantially comply with the requirements of the RFP
- Issue multiple awards

The applicant must ensure that it has responded to the RFP with complete honesty and accuracy. If information in the applicant's response changes, the applicant will supplement its response in writing with any deletions, additions, or changes within five days of the change. Any material misrepresentation, including omissions, may disqualify the applicant from consideration for an award.

About Foundation for a Smoke-Free World

The Foundation for a Smoke-Free World is an independent, US nonprofit [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) private foundation with the purpose of improving global health by ending smoking in this generation. The

Foundation focuses its grantmaking in three broad categories: health and science research, agricultural diversification, and industry transformation. Funded by annual gifts from PMI Global Services Inc. (“PMI”), the Foundation is independent from PMI and operates in a manner that ensures its independence from the influence of any commercial entity. Under the Foundation’s [Pledge Agreement](#) with PMI and [bylaws](#), PMI and the tobacco industry are precluded from having any control or influence over how the Foundation spends its funds or focuses its activities. For more information about the Foundation, please visit www.smokefreeworld.org.