

# Health and Science Research Request for Proposal

## TOPIC

### **Impact of Policies and Regulations on Tobacco Harm Reduction in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)**

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 \$400,000
Financing duration	Maximum of 8 months, consistent with proposal and work plan
Contact information	<a href="mailto:support@smokefreeworld.org">support@smokefreeworld.org</a>

## Introduction

Countries across the globe have introduced a variety of policies and regulations relating to tobacco harm-reduction (THR) products. These regulations range from complete bans to restrictions similar to those placed on combustible tobacco products. As more countries consider regulating THR products, it is essential to study the impact or potential impact these regulations may have on issues relating tobacco harm reduction, including impacts on smokers generally and on marginalized subpopulations, national economies, and public health.

The imposition of these regulations and policies is motivated by a number of factors, including misinformation and organized opposition to THR products from segments of the public health community. Research is needed to accurately assess at a systemic level the impact of such regulations, which are either in place or under consideration in various countries, to inform debates for evidence-based decisions on country-level public health work, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The Foundation for a Smoke-Free World (“the Foundation”) is inviting proposals to study and document the impact of these policies on various aspects of public health and economies.

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 are aligned with the [Foundation’s strategy](#).

**Objective: Study and document the intended and unintended impact of current and future policies and regulations on THR in LMICs.**

## Deliverable

Comprehensive report leading to publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The report should include current and future effects on smokers’ quit attempts, changes in smoking prevalence generally and on marginalized subpopulations, health outcomes, national economies, public health, and other related areas.

## **Expected Qualifications**

Eligible institutions include research think tanks, universities, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in developed and developing countries (the former must establish collaboration with their counterparts in developing countries) with research experience in economics and related modeling, tobacco control, 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**

LMICs

## **Estimated budget and duration**

- Budget not to exceed US \$400,000
- Duration not to exceed 8 months

## **Evaluation Criteria**

The following criteria will be used to evaluate submissions:

- Expertise and prior experience, including demonstrated ability to perform on similar projects
- Research presence, including in LMICs
- Availability of a comprehensive communications plan for dissemination of report
- 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 start the 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](mailto: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 any 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](http://www.smokefreeworld.org).