



## **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TOBACCO GRANT PROGRAM**

The California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tax Act of 2016 (Proposition 56) provides local public agencies with funding to promote a healthier California by reducing illegal sales and marketing of cigarettes and tobacco products to minors. The Office of the Attorney General makes these annual funds available to local law enforcement agencies through the California Department of Justice Tobacco Grant Program.

Approved by voters in 2016, Prop. 56 increased taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products by \$2.00 starting in April 2017. The initiative specifically allocates \$30 million of annual revenue to the California Department of Justice. These funds will support local law enforcement efforts to reduce the illegal sale of tobacco products to minors.

The Office of the Attorney General encourages local public agencies to learn more about the Tobacco Grant Program, become familiar with the grant requirements and understand the grant proposal process.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Any local public agency within the State of California that has authority to enforce tobacco-related state laws or local ordinances is eligible to apply. This may include cities, counties, public school districts, college districts, law enforcement agencies, city attorneys and county counsels.

Grantees may use grant funds to enforce state and local laws related to the illegal sale and marketing of tobacco products to minors and youth including:

- Retailer compliance checks
- Retailer training programs
- Installation of signage
- Youth outreach
- Tobacco retail license inspections
- Preventing and deterring use of tobacco products on school premises

### **Funding Details**

Selected public agencies will be funded for up to a three-year cycle. Funding amount will be evaluated based on the submitted grant proposal.

### **Grant Proposal**

The California Department of Justice will issue a Request for Proposals on September 5, 2018. Eligible agencies must submit applications to the California Department of Justice by October 5, 2018 at 5:00 PM. All

applications must be received by the California Department of Justice by the deadline; late applications will not be considered.

Grant applications will be assessed for their potential to improve enforcement of laws relating to the sale, marketing, and restrictions on the use of tobacco products to minors.

To learn more about the Tobacco Grant Program, or to obtain a copy of the Request for Proposal and view related informational documents, please visit: <https://oag.ca.gov/tobaccogrants>

Questions regarding the application process may be directed to the California Department of Justice at [tobaccogrants@doj.ca.gov](mailto:tobaccogrants@doj.ca.gov).

### **Examples of local entities that could apply for the grant funding**

- **Cities, counties or local government agencies** that apply for funding to:
  - bring local businesses into compliance with current tobacco ordinances;
  - support community and retailer outreach and education programs;
  - create media awareness campaigns;
  - inspect and enforce local tobacco retail licenses;
- **Public school districts, college districts, and law enforcement agencies under contract with school districts** that apply for funding to:
  - hire, train, and support additional school resource officers (SRO) to focus on tobacco issues;
  - install signs or air quality detection devices in school bathrooms and other areas to discourage vaping and smoking on school grounds.
- **City attorneys or county counsels** who apply for an expansion of their efforts to:
  - decrease access to unlawful tobacco products, for instance, through prosecuting cases involving contraband or unstamped tobacco products;
  - investigate and take enforcement action against hookah lounges that are not in compliance;
  - develop multilingual media outreach campaigns;
  - investigate and prosecute the unlawful sales of tobacco products to minors on the internet and marketing on social media.
- **Local law enforcement**, including police departments, sheriffs' departments, and school police departments that apply for funding to:
  - conduct minor decoy operations including for electronic cigarettes/vape products;
  - increase resources to conduct tobacco-related enforcement operations targeting locations where minors are likely to be present, such as playgrounds, youth sports events, baseball stadiums, school and college campuses, public transit systems, or vehicles with a child present;
  - provide education classes or diversion programs for tobacco retailers to help ensure that they understand state and local tobacco laws.