

Funding Now Available for Tobacco Enforcement Program (TEP)

Solicitation Overview

In accordance with Texas Government Code §403.105 (c), Permanent Funding for Health and Tobacco Education and Enforcement, the Texas School Safety Center at Texas State University (TxSSC) on behalf of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is soliciting applications from local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of conducting controlled buy/stings and follow-up controlled buy/stings of tobacco permitted and e-cigarette retail outlets statewide for State Fiscal Year 2019.

The expected funding period will be **April 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019**.

Application Information Tobacco Enforcement Program (TEP)

Fiscal Year: 2019

Application Due Date: Friday, January 25, 2019

Purpose of Funds:

Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) will make contracts to counties and municipalities to enable local law enforcement agencies to enforce Subchapter H, Chapter 161, Texas Health and Safety Code in a manner that can reasonably be expected to reduce the extent to which cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and tobacco products are illegally sold or distributed to persons who are younger than 18 years of age. TxSSC shall rely, to the fullest extent possible, on sheriffs, constables, or police departments to enforce this subchapter. Contract amounts will be contingent on the overall number of applications received, applicant's jurisdictional retail outlet density, and meeting goals for statewide coverage per Health and Human Services Regions.

Selected contractors providing services under this agreement will conduct on-site controlled buy/stings and follow-up controlled buy/stings involving the use of minor decoys (i.e., "Stings"), record the controlled buy/sting information on the Cigarette, E-cigarette, and Tobacco Controlled Buy/Sting Report form, and submit monthly activity reports to TxSSC. TxSSC will reimburse contracted law enforcement agencies \$100.00 for each completed controlled buy/sting conducted.

As funding permits, consideration for funding levels will be given as follows:

- **Option A** – When the jurisdiction has over fifty (50) tobacco permitted & e-cigarette retail outlets, law enforcement agency contractors will be funded to conduct controlled buy/stings at a minimum of 25 percent or up to a maximum of 200 percent of retail outlets in the jurisdiction.
- **Option B** – When the jurisdiction has fifty (50) or less tobacco permitted & e-cigarette retail outlets, law enforcement agency contractors will be funded to conduct controlled buy/stings at a minimum of 100 percent or up to a maximum of 400 percent of retail outlets in the jurisdiction.

Use the Comptroller of Public Accounts searchable [Cigarette/Tobacco Active Retailers database](#) to determine the number of permitted retailers in your agency's jurisdiction.

Please also include an estimate of the number of vape shops and/or e-cigarette retailers in your jurisdiction that do not have a tobacco permit.

Projected Application Review Timeline:

- **Applications Due:** January 25, 2019
- **Review/Negotiation Period:** January 26 – February 15, 2019
- **Funding Notification:** February 25, 2019

As funding permits, consideration for funding levels will be given as follows:

- **Contracts Initiated:** March 1, 2019
- **Signed Contracts Due:** March 29, 2019*
- **Contract Start Date:** April 1, 2019
- **Contractor Training Webinar:** Date TBD - April 2019

*Contractors are responsible for ensuring they have obtained the appropriate approvals from their governing body (city council or county commissioner's court) to accept the contract funds for implementation of contracted services on contract start date.

Applying for a Contract:

To apply for a contract, law enforcement agencies shall submit the completed [FY19 Agency Application Form](#) by the due date.

 FY19 Agency Application Form**Ineligible Applications:**

Applications will not be accepted or processed for review for the following reasons:

- Application is received past the application due date/time
- Application is not certified
- Application is otherwise incomplete

Application or Funding Questions:

Direct all questions regarding this funding announcement or application process to:

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