



**Center for  
Scientific Review**

# **Peer Review Process**

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# Key Dates for Application Review

- Application Due – July 14, 2022\*
- Scientific Merit Review – January 2023
- Advisory Council Review – May 2023

\*According to the RFA, no late applications will be accepted for this Funding Opportunity Announcement.

# **Application must be completed at the time of submission**

- No changes can be made after submission; missing or corrected materials CANNOT be submitted after the deadline
- NIH Post-Submission Material Policy (NOT-OD-19-083) – limited type of materials can be submitted
  - Must be submitted 30 days prior to the meeting
  - Must be submitted by your Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)/Signing Official (SO)
  - Reviewers are not obligated to read post submission materials.

# CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

**We make all efforts to avoid any real or perceived conflicts (as defined by NIH policies).**

- Out of Meeting Conflicts
- Out of Room Conflicts
- **Out of Meeting Conflicts are excluded from participating in the review meeting:**
  - Anyone involved in or listed as involved personnel on any of the applications
  - People from the tobacco industry

# CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

## **Out of Room Conflicts are excluded from the review of a specific application**

- Collaborators/Former collaborators (last three years)
- Mentors/Mentees (10 years or forever) of anybody involved in your application
- Everyone from an Institution where any of the application's involved personnel works (this can sometimes include those writing Letters of Support)

# Scored Review Criteria (same as listed in FOA)

## Section V. Application Review Information

### 1. Criteria

Only the review criteria described below will be considered in the review process. Applications submitted to the NIH in support of the [NIH mission](#) are evaluated for scientific and technical merit through the NIH peer review system.

#### Overall Impact - Overall

Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the CASEL to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the following review criteria and additional review criteria (as applicable for the CASEL proposed).

#### Scored Review Criteria - Overall

Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of scientific merit, and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact. For example, a project that by its nature is not innovative may be essential to advance a field.

#### Significance

Does the project address an important issue or a critical barrier in the field? Is there a strong scientific premise for the project? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge and/or technical capability be improved? How will successful completion of the aims affect the concepts, methods, and technologies related to the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products?

#### Investigator(s)

Are the PD(s)/PI(s), collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early Stage Investigators or those in the early stages of independent careers, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

#### Innovation

Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research in the field of tobacco science as it relates to the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, or instrumentation proposed? Will the outcomes of the project provide new information to further develop the knowledge base that informs the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products in order to protect public health?

#### Approach

Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Have investigators included plans to address weaknesses in the rigor of prior research that serves as the key support for the proposed project? Have the investigators presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach, as appropriate for the work proposed? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? Have the investigators presented adequate plans to address relevant biological variables, such as sex, for studies in vertebrate animals or human subjects?

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- **Overall Impact**

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- **Significance**

- Does the project address an important issue or a critical barrier in the field? Is there a strong scientific premise for the project? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge and/or technical capability be improved? How will successful completion of the aims affect the concepts, methods, and technologies related to the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products?

- **Investigator**

- **Innovation**

- Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research in the field of tobacco science as it relates to the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, or instrumentation proposed? Will the outcomes of the project provide new information to further develop the knowledge base that informs the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products in order to protect public health?

- **Approach**

- **Environment**

# Additional Review Criteria (CASEL)

These are not given individual scores but will be considered and weighted in the overall impact score of the application

## **Additional Review Criteria - Overall and Cores**

As applicable for the CASEL proposed, reviewers will evaluate the following additional items while determining scientific and technical merit, and in providing an overall impact score, but will not give separate scores for these items.

### **Review Criteria for Leadership and Logistics Core**

#### **Organizational Structure**

What is the quality of the organizational structure of the CASEL proposal and does this structure indicate an ability to integrate the full range of Center functions to achieve the specified goals? Is the coordination between the CASEL's Leadership and Logistics core and other cores adequate and well documented?

#### **Leadership and Managerial Capacity**

Is there evidence of strong leadership and managerial capacity to bring diverse teams together across the TCORS and other CTP-funded programs?

Is there evidence of expertise in organizational, management, and/or team sciences?

#### **Plans for Communication and Cooperation**

Are there adequate plans for communication and cooperation within CASEL and with tobacco regulatory science investigators?

#### **Core Lead**

Is/Are the Core Leads appropriately experienced in coordinating large multi-site programs and well-suited to carry out the proposed administrative, professional, and scientific leadership across the CTP-funded program? Does/do the PDs/PIs have demonstrated skill with facilitating constructive dialog among investigators with potentially disparate scientific opinions and viewpoints?

If the Core uses multiple Leads, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise?

# **Additional Review Criteria (CASEL)**

- **Leadership and Logistics Core**
- **Analytics and Rapid Response Core**
- **Career Enhancement Core**
- **Dissemination Core**

# Standard Additional Review Criteria

## Standard aspects of NIH application:

- Protections for Human Subjects
- Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Individuals Across the Lifespan
- Vertebrate Animals
- Biohazards
- Resource Sharing Plans
- Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources

# Thank you!

*Please review Section V. “Application Review Information” in the RFA/Funding Opportunity Announcement for more details about the specific review criteria*