

Tobacco Grant Program - 2026-27-1 - Application

3. Agency Profile

1. Agency Name

Tehama County District Attorney

2. Division/Section/Department

Bureau of Investigation

3. County

Tehama

4. Entity Type

Public Agency

5. Agency Type

Prosecutor (e.g., DA, City Attorney, or County Counsel)

6. Federal Taxpayer Identification Number

94-6000543

7. Does agency have authority to enforce state tobacco laws OR local tobacco ordinances covering retail establishments?

Yes

4. Agency Physical Address

8. Physical Address

444 Oak Street Room L

9. Physical Address 2

10. City

Red Bluff

11. State

CA

12. ZIP code (5 or 9 digits w/dash)

96080

5. Agency Mailing Address

13. Is mailing address the same as physical address?

Yes

6. Agency Payment Address

14. Payment Address

444 Oak Street Room L

15. Payment Address 2

16. City

Red Bluff

17. State

CA

18. ZIP code (5 or 9 digits w/dash)

96080

7. Authorized Officer

1. First Name

Brett

2. Middle Name

3. Last Name

McAllister

4. Job Title

Lieutenant

5. Phone Number

(530) 529-3590

6. Email Address

bmcallister@tehama.gov

7. Confirm Email Address

bmcallister@tehama.gov

8. Project Director

8. First Name

Brett

9. Middle Name

10. Last Name

McAllister

11. Job Title

Lieutenant

12. Phone Number

(530) 529-3590

13. Email Address

bmcallister@tehama.gov

14. Confirm Email Address

bmcallister@tehama.gov

9. Financial Officer

15. First Name

Theresia

16. Middle Name

17. Last Name

Sweeney

18. Job Title

Office Manager

19. Phone Number

(530) 527-3053

20. Email Address

tsweeney@tehama.gov

21. Confirm Email Address

tsweeney@tehama.gov

10. Administrative Contact

22. First Name

Jeff

23. Middle Name**24. Last Name**

Wing

25. Job Title

Chief Investigator

26. Phone Number

(530) 529-3590

27. Email Address

jwing@tehama.gov

28. Confirm Email Address

jwing@tehama.gov

11. Project Summary

1. Funding Requested

300,000

2. Funding Duration

36 months

3. Planned Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

11/15/2026

4. Summary of Proposed Project.

The Tehama County District Attorney's Office is currently staffed by six prosecutors and 13 Investigators, including both full time and extra help capacities. Together with additional support staff, we (TCDA) are dedicated to ensuring that justice is served on behalf of the residents of Tehama County. Our mission is to enforce, review and prosecute criminal violations of the laws, protect consumers and to support victims of crime within the county.

While Tehama County is Rural and sparsely populated, based on statistics from the California Tobacco Facts and Figures 2025 study, Tehama County's tobacco use rate by those over 21 is 19.1% compared to a state average of 9%. In addition while in the past, Tehama County entities have had grant funded programs that focused on education or youth vape use within schools, there has been little to no enforcement of tobacco retailers. The Tehama County District Attorney's Office proposes to combat illegal tobacco sales and support enforcement of civil and criminal penalties through the following grant funded activities, retailer education, retailer inspections, undercover buys and prosecution. These grant resources will allow the Tehama County District Attorney's Office to focus on the illegal sale of tobacco products.

12. Partnering Agencies

1. Will your agency have other local agencies, departments, or contractors involved to complete any of the proposed activities?

Yes

13. Partner Agency 1

2. Partner Agency 1

City of Red Bluff

3. What agreement type is expected with this agency for their involvement?

Other - Write In (Required): Letter of Support

4. Partner Agency Roles in Project

The City of Red Bluff is in the process of applying for Tobacco Grant funds. The City's intention is to create a local flavored tobacco ordinance and enforce local ordinances.

The District Attorney's office will provide sworn law enforcement assistance and work to review and prosecute violations of these ordinances. Additionally, both agencies will on occasion work together for retail inspections and other related activities.

5. Please upload this partner agency's signed Letter of Commitment (PDF).

[lettersofsupport.pdf](#)

6. Do you have additional partnering agencies to add?

No

21. Problem Statement

1. Geographic Areas Covered by Project

Tehama County is rural county with a large diverse geographical landscape. This ranges from the valley floor with farms and livestock pastures to unincorporated communities within the mountains at an elevation of 5000+feet. Tehama County has approximately 3000 square miles with three incorporated cities and 8 unincorporated towns.

2. Total Population within Project Area

65520

3. Population % Under Age 21 within Project Area

27.2

4. Retailers within Project Area

73

5. Retailers within 1,000 Feet of Schools (within Project Area)

11

6. Does a local Tobacco Retail License program exist in the project area?

No

7. Problem Statement Narrative

While Tehama County's population and number of retailers is much less than surrounding areas, Tobacco use in general and especially by those under 21 years of age has some of the highest percentages in the state. The 2023 California Youth Tobacco Survey showed Tehama County having a 16.4% tobacco use by youth with 13.3% of that being the use of vapes, this is compared to the state wide average of 7.3% . Also, according to the 2025 California Tobacco Facts and Figures report, overall Tobacco use in Tehama County is 19.1% (highest in the state) compared to a statewide average of 9%

To compound this, in the past the focus has been youth vaping within schools and most recently retailer education but not enforcement. While retailer education is an important component, that alone has not been effective. This comes from speaking with members of the community, both adults and those under 21 as well as personal observations that the sale of tobacco to those under 21 years of age and the sale of flavored tobacco products is ongoing within Tehama County. The 2025 Synar Tobacco Purchase Survey, showed the High Country/North Valley region having a 5.3% retailer violation rate. We at the Tehama County District Attorney's Office feel this may be higher as less enforcement has occurred within this county.

22. Goals and Objectives

1. Activity Area(s)

Retailer Inspections
Minor Decoy Operations
Shoulder Tap Operations
Undercover Buys
Retailer Education
Prosecution
Tobacco Enforcement Education

23. Retailer Inspections

2. Per year, how many tobacco retailers will be inspected?

24

3. Inspection Plans

District Attorney Investigators will perform compliance checks and inspections of online and in person tobacco retailers both by DA Investigators independently, as well as through joint operations with outside agencies. Retailer selection will be based on areas with high retailer to school density, community complaints, and online sales by local vendors. During these compliance checks, tobacco violations will be observed and noted. These will be forwarded to the DA for review and prosecution if appropriate.

24. Minor Decoy Operations

4. Per year, how many minor decoy operations are planned?

12

5. Per year, how many retailers will be targeted for these operations?

12

6. Operational Plans

District Attorney Investigators will enforce state tobacco laws and any applicable local ordinances, through the use of Minor Decoy operations. In this instance, minors will be selected from local law enforcement explorer/cadet programs and high school ROP students. Each will be fitted with covert recording devices for both evidence collection and safety. Each operation will have multiple DA Investigators or other local law enforcement, in close proximity and continuously monitoring for safety and security of the minors. Retailer selection will be based on community complaints, proximity to schools and random selections. Enforcement action will be taken if violations are observed and follow up retailer education will be provided.

25. Shoulder Tap Operations

7. Per year, how many shoulder tap operations are planned?

12

8. Per year, how many retailers will be targeted for these operations?

12

9. Operational Plans

DA Investigators will enforce state tobacco laws through the use of shoulder tap operations. Selection of retailers will be based on community complaints, proximity to schools and random selections. Decoy recruitment will be from local law enforcement Explorer/Cadet programs as well as high school ROP students. Each decoy will be fitted with advanced covert recording/monitoring equipment for both evidence collection and safety. Multiple DA Investigators and or other local law enforcement will be present and continuously monitored for the safety and security of the decoys. All violations will be noted and enforcement action will be taken.

26. Undercover Buy Operations

10. Types of Undercover Buy operations planned

Single Sale / Loosie
Flavored tobacco (in-store)
Internet/mail
Unlicensed

11. Per year, how many undercover buy operations are planned?

3

12. Per year, how many retailers will be targeted for these operations?

25

13. Operational Plans

Through the use of DA Investigators and other local law enforcement, undercover buys of illegal tobacco products will be conducted. Each Investigator/Agent/Officer will be fitted with modern, covert, recording equipment for evidence gathering and safety. Retailer selection will be based on community complaints, local law enforcement intelligence and or multiple random "cold" attempts. Each operation will have multiple other Investigators/officers present for safety. Those selected for the operation have years of experience as narcotic agents, or in other capacities where undercover operations were conducted and therefore are well trained and well versed with undercover operations. All violations noted will be enforced.

27. Retailer Education

14. Type of Educational Activity

On-site Education

15. Per year, how many retailers will receive educational materials?

73

16. Per year, how many retailers will receive on-site education?

73

17. Retailer Education Plans

Tehama County currently has 73 state licensed tobacco retailers. For the past three years, in cooperation with the Tehama County Department of Education, District Attorney Investigators have been conducting retail inspections that focused solely on education. As such, we intend to continue this process along with added enforcement operations. Each local retailer will be visited at least once per year and provided with education both verbally and by reference material.

28. Prosecution

18. Plans for Prosecuting Violators

The Tehama County District Attorney's Office fully intends to prosecute both civil and criminal cases against businesses and business owners who are selling tobacco products, including vaping products, and flavored tobacco in violation of law. Tehama County DA Deputy District Attorney's review the work of DA Investigators as well as the work of other police agencies to identify suspected illegal operators, and execute search warrants, review cases for filing or first timer diversion. Applicable laws may include, Penal code, Business and Professions Code, Health and Safety Code, and Revenue and Taxations violations.

The Tehama County District Attorney when applicable, will use BP 17200 et seq, the Unfair Competition Law to identify, investigate and prosecute local and on line businesses that are in violation of the STAKE act and other restrictions on tobacco sales.

30. Tobacco Enforcement Education

19. Per year, how many enforcement officers will receive tobacco education?

15

20. Plans for Tobacco Enforcement Education

As the lead law enforcement agency in Tehama County, the District Attorney plans to provide tobacco enforcement trainings for local Law Enforcement, Public Health and Code Enforcement. The District Attorney's office also plans to outsource subject matter experts to provide further training.

32. Project Personnel

1. Does the applicant agency have personnel that will perform grant activities?

Yes

33. Project Personnel 1

2. Personnel Classification/Rank

Extra Help Investigator II

3. Will project activities by this personnel be done on overtime, straight time, or both?

Straight Time

4. Percentage of Straight Time Planned (%)

100%

5. Personnel Duties

Retailer Inspections
Minor Decoy Operations
Shoulder Tap Operations
Undercover Buy Operations
Retailer Education

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Staff in this category are fully sworn California Peace officers as defined in Penal Code section 830.1. The role of this person(s) is to investigate tobacco violators, plan and execute undercover buys, minor decoy and shoulder tap operations, perform retail inspections, liaison and collaborate with local law enforcement agencies and provide retail education outreach and training.

Personnel in this role are retired annuitants, who have 20 to 30 years of law enforcement training and experience.

7. Are there additional personnel that will perform project activities?

Yes

34. Project Personnel 2

8. Personnel Classification/Rank

Investigator II/III/Lieutenant

9. Will project activities by this personnel be done on overtime, straight time, or both?

Overtime

10. Personnel Duties

Retailer Inspections
Minor Decoy Operations
Shoulder Tap Operations
Undercover Buy Operations
Retailer Education

11. Roles and Responsibilities

Personnel in this category are fully sworn peace officers as defined by Penal code 830.1. Personnel in this category will support, assist, participate and manage the extra help Investigator II with undercover buys, minor decoy operations, shoulder tap operations, retail inspections and will provide retail education when necessary.

Personnel in this category generally have 15 to 25+ years of law enforcement training and experience.

12. Are there additional personnel that will perform project activities?

No

41. Project Budget

1. Budget Detail upload (Excel file)

[Retailtobaccoenforcementgrantbudgetdetailsheet.xlsx](#)

2. Does your Budget Detail include any expenses listed in Section B (Other Operating Expenses and Equipment)?

Yes

3. Budget Narrative: Please provide justification for each expense listed within Section B of the Budget Detail Sheet (Operating Expenses and Equipment)".

B. Other Expenses Justification.

Undercover Equipment. These upfront initial costs for the purchase of covert audio and video devices are crucial to the safety of undercover officers and minor decoys as well as being crucial to evidence collection for prosecution of tobacco violations.

Buy funds- These costs are necessary for in-person retail purchases as well as remote on-line purchases.

Travel Expenses/Registration Fees- These costs are necessary for ensuring update training for all grant assigned staff in order to fulfill all grant objectives. In addition, funds allow for the ability to host trainings for all agency staff and local law enforcement partners. Cost estimates are reasonable and budgeted using the U.S. General Services approved rates.

All local and state rules will be complied with to facilitate procurement and reimbursement of these necessary and reasonable expenses.

4. Budget item(s) that will directly support Retailer Inspections

Extra Help Investigator I- Salary Benefits and Fringe
Investigator II/Lieutenant Overtime Salary, Benefits and Fringe
Training and Training related Travel and Lodging

5. Budget item(s) that will directly support Minor Decoy operations

Extra Help Investigator I- Salary Benefits and Fringe
Investigator II/Lieutenant Overtime Salary, Benefits and Fringe
Training and Training related Travel and Lodging
Undercover buy funds to be used for in-person retail purchases, as well as remote on-line purchases
Purchase of covert equipment.

6. Budget item(s) that will directly support Shoulder Tap operations

Extra Help Investigator I- Salary Benefits and Fringe
Investigator II/Lieutenant Overtime Salary, Benefits and Fringe
Training and Training related Travel and Lodging
Undercover buy funds to be used for in-person retail purchases, as well as remote on-line purchases
Purchase of covert equipment.

7. Budget item(s) that will directly support Undercover Buy operations

Extra Help Investigator I- Salary Benefits and Fringe
Investigator II/Lieutenant Overtime Salary, Benefits and Fringe
Training and Training related Travel and Lodging
Undercover buy funds to be used for in-person retail purchases, as well as remote on-line purchases
Purchase of covert equipment

8. Budget item(s) that will directly support Retailer Education

Extra Help Investigator I- Salary Benefits and Fringe
Investigator II/Lieutenant Overtime Salary, Benefits and Fringe
Training and Training related Travel and Lodging

9. Budget item(s) that will directly support Prosecution

Training and Training related Travel and Lodging

10. Budget item(s) that will directly support Tobacco Enforcement Education

Extra Help Investigator I- Salary Benefits and Fringe
Investigator II/Lieutenant Overtime Salary, Benefits and Fringe
Training and Training related Travel and Lodging

11. Other Funding Sources

Absent these grant recourses, the Tehama County District Attorney's Office would not be able to dedicate staff to the exclusive enforcement of tobacco law. Investigation and prosecution of tobacco laws is complex and time consuming. All proposed project activities will supplement not supplant.

42. Agency Capacity

1. Grant Management Experience

The Tehama County District Attorney's Office has managed multiple grants over the past 20+ years. Within the Bureau of Investigation division, they have managed small grants such as Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE), Judge Advocate General (Jag) and others. For Larger grants which would be similar in size and scope, for at least 15+ years The District Attorney and Bureau of Investigation has managed grants provided by the California Department of Insurance for Workers Compensation and Automobile insurance fraud.

As such, personnel within the Bureau of Investigation have managed grants and have experience with overall management, statistics and any other such activities. The District Attorney Office Manager has years of experience managing office budgets and all budgetary items associated with grants.

2. Experience Conducting Tobacco Enforcement Activities (or Similar)

Activities your agency selected to perform include: *Retail Inspections, Minor Decoy Operations, Shoulder Tap Operations, Undercover Buys, Retailer Education, Prosecution, Tobacco Enforcement Education*

For the past three years, District Attorney Investigators, were partnered with the Tehama County Department of Education to assist with their tobacco grant. As such, one dedicated Investigator and two to three other overtime investigators, conducted retail inspections and provided education, and training materials. Due to the Department of Education's stance on enforcement, the only current experience is that of education. That being said, the DA's office recognizes the need for enforcement and is looking forward to the prospect of grant funding to assist with that.

As far as general experience, personnel participating in this project are seasoned investigators who's experience with narcotic investigations, child predator online sex investigations and assisting such agencies as ABC with minor decoy operations, serving numerous search warrants and advanced surveillance training and experience will make a fairly seamless transition into retail tobacco enforcement.

3. Continuity and Contingency Planning

With any assignment from general criminal to grant funded specific tasks, we at the Tehama County District Attorney's Office have always strived to not let personnel changes greatly affect the work being done. As a small office, Investigators are trained in different roles and are familiar with each. As such, any change in staffing will be met with other investigators who can assume the grant role and operate either solo or in combination to fulfill requirements.

4. Community Support Letters

5. Has your agency ever received a grant through the DOJ Tobacco Grant Program?

No

44. Certifications And Signature

1. Authorized Officer signature

Brett McAllister

45. Review Responses Before Submission

1. Grantee Handbook Acknowledgement - [Download the Grantee Handbook](#)

I certify that I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the Terms and Conditions outlined in the Grantee Handbook, including but not limited to requirements for quarterly reporting, reimbursement of invoices, timely data submission, adherence to deadlines, and participation in Grant Program Officer meetings.

Yes

2. REVIEW RESPONSES BEFORE SUBMISSION

When all prior sections have been completed, you may use this page to download a PDF version of your responses. This may be useful for internal circulation review prior to submission. When you are satisfied, please complete the confirmation field below:

I have reviewed this application, and it is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Yes