

# UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF™



## MINORITY RESEARCH CENTER on Tobacco & Addictions

### Minority Research Center Process Evaluation Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Prepared by

Terrance D. Youngblood

Senior Research Analyst

Youngblood & Associates, LLC

[terrance@askyoungblood.com](mailto:terrance@askyoungblood.com)

501.396.9895

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## Executive Summary

Established in 2011 from Master Tobacco Settlement funds, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Minority Research Center (MRC) was established to conduct empirically-based research on tobacco use and substance abuse among minority populations and to serve as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of information regarding approaches to tobacco free and healthful living among minority populations on local, regional, and national scale.

This process evaluation examines the progression of MRC towards the goals, objectives, activities, and program outcomes set for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 in relation to the following areas:

- Decreasing initiation of tobacco use among youth and young adults
- Decreasing exposure to secondhand smoke
- Decreasing tobacco use among adults and youth
- Sustainability

Due to the spread of covid-19, some projects and interventions planned during this fiscal year were postponed indefinitely. Despite the unforeseen turn of events, overall, the findings suggest that the MRC is continuing to take steps in a positive direction. Future recommendations of the organization include the continued use of the modified empowerment assessment method and better collection of feedback in activities.

## Introduction

This process evaluation is designed to observe the progressions made by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Minority Research Center on Tobacco and Addictions in meeting its established objectives for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. While there will be some gleaning on program outcomes, the focus of this evaluation will be the steps or actions taken by the Minority Research Center (MRC), not necessarily the end result. Moreover, the overall purpose of this evaluation is to assist MRC in its effort to improve its effectiveness and continually enhance its experience for stakeholders. The feedback here represents a third party observation of the program's efforts.

## Methods

Qualitative methods were utilized to determine the progressions made within objectives established in the 2019-2020 Work Plan. Qualitative measures stemmed from interviews as well as content analysis of program data.

## Summary of Findings

This section will focus the findings in the following intervention areas: (a) Decreasing initiation of tobacco use among youth and young adults; (b) Decreasing tobacco use among adults and youth; (c) Decreasing exposure to secondhand smoke; and (d) Sustainability.

### **Objective 1: Decreasing initiation of tobacco use among youth and young adults**

This intervention area focuses on methods to help decrease the rate of youth and young adult engagement in tobacco use. The MRC had implemented four separate projects designed to meet this objective as seen in Tables A1-A3. From the data gathered, it appears that three of four projects were implemented to varying degrees due to the spread of Covid-19 in Arkansas.

***Tobacco and Opioid Use Prevalence Project.*** During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the MRC had planned to fund up to \$20,000 for one research project that focuses on tobacco and opioid use prevalence among minority youth and young adults. This project was included in the request for proposals (RFP) which was advertised via social media, email, and academic listservs, and print in August 2019 to emerging scholars and researchers whose work was geared toward eliminating smoking and tobacco use in minority communities. A copy of the RFP is located in Appendix B.

Dr. Stephanie Frances Rose, Assistant Professor in Health Sciences at the University of Central Arkansas, received the MRC grant. Her project is centered on developing prevention education materials developed specifically for minority youth that can positively influence health perception and behavioral intention related to e-cigarette/vaping, tobacco, and opioid use using qualitative data from minority middle school and high school students from the Conway and Little Rock school districts. With the project start date in Spring 2020, there was little to no data analysis to be shared at the time due to emergence of closing of schools due to Covid-19. However, one possible resource to emerge is an illustrated book in development that focused on the consequences of vaping from the UCA team.



***Middle School Intervention on Emerging Tobacco Products.*** During this fiscal year, the MRC had planned to conduct an intervention targeting minority students as well as school administrators and faculty at 12 proposed middle schools on their knowledge of emerging tobacco products such as Juul. Eligible schools for this intervention were located in the following counties: Ashley, Chicot, Clark, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Hempstead, Jefferson, Lee, Mississippi, Phillips, St. Francis, and Union. Due to logistical issues, the MRC was only able to conduct the intervention at one middle school. The plan is to reboot the intervention at a later date.

***Tobacco Imagery Project.*** During this fiscal year, the MRC had planned to conduct tobacco imagery surveillance in designated minority communities in the Arkansas Delta. This project was eventually canceled due to the spread of Covid-19 in Arkansas.

**Objective 2: Decreasing initiation of tobacco use among adults and youth.**

This intervention area focuses on methods to help decrease tobacco use among adults and youth. The MRC had implemented one project designed to meet this objective as seen in Table A4. From the data gathered, it appears that project was implemented.

***African-American Women Tobacco Cessation Project.*** During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the MRC implemented interventions and funded one research project that focused on tobacco cessation use among African American and/or Hispanic women. This project was also included in the request for proposals (RFP) which was advertised in August 2019 (Appendix B). Dr. Dina Marie Jones, Postdoctoral Fellow in the College of Public Health at the University of Arkansas for Medical Science, received the grant. Her two-year study aims to identify and evaluate the feasibility of an educational video intervention on cessation, harm reduction perceptions, and behavior among African-American women who use combustible tobacco.

**Objective 3: Decreasing exposure to secondhand smoke.**

This intervention area focuses on methods to help decrease the exposure of secondhand smoke among minority populations. The MRC had planned to implement interventions to address exposure to secondhand smoke as well as provide an educational webinar on smoke-free multi-unit housing for stakeholders as in Table A6. From the data gathered, it appears that the MRC generated some level of progress toward this objective.

While the MRC did invite scholars to submit research studies focused on decreasing minorities' exposure to secondhand smoke, there were no submissions specific to that area that were funded during the 2019-2020 fiscal year; however, the MRC was able to provide a webinar on tobacco free multi-unit housing by Dr. Marian S Evans-Lothery in March 2020. (Appendix C). Fifty individuals attended the webinar.

**Objective 4: Sustainability**

The MRC has demonstrated notable action in strengthening relations with current and new stakeholders in both academic and social settings. From the academic perspective, the MRC has submitted two abstracts for peer review: one to the *Journal of Management, Spirituality & Religion* and the other to the *Journal of Rural Health*. In efforts to create a more regional community, the MRC had reconstructed its community advisory board (Appendix D). Due to Covid-19, the MRC held a virtual advisory board meeting schedule in May 2020.

## Conclusions & Recommendations

The objectives in the 2019-2020 Work plan focused on setting a course for the MRC to be an effective model in the areas of research, outreach, marketing, and sustainability. In this analysis, there were notable positive indicators which merit potential such as the continuation of the MRC Request for Proposals and the MRC School Interventions. Both are examples of this organization reaching out to various parts of the community to encourage Arkansans to be knowledgeable about the dangers of tobacco and to voluntarily utilize that knowledge to potentially live in a tobacco free environment.

After review of the Work Plan and accompanying data related to the objectives and activities set by the MRC, the following are general recommendations to be offered for consideration:

- **Continuation of the Modified Empowerment Evaluation Approach.** During the past two fiscal year, the MRC had adopted a modified empowerment evaluation approach<sup>1</sup>. This approach has proven to be effective for MRC in terms of measuring and capturing evaluation goals. This needs to be continued.
- **Incorporate Formative Assessments in Activities.** Consider the use of formative assessments to gain feedback on how to improve or implement programmatic events that are significant to MRC, for example the multi-unit webinar presentations or the school interventions. Choose two to three areas which are most important and begin tracking them to observe whether changes should or should not be needed.

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<sup>1</sup> Fetterman, D.M., Kaftarian, S., and Wandersman, A. (2015). *Empowerment evaluation: knowledge and tools for self-assessment, evaluation capacity building, and accountability*. Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA.



## Appendix A

Table A1. *Decreased initiation of tobacco use. Status of Planned Activities.*

<b>Planned Activities</b>	<b>Status (Was Progress Made?)</b>
Distribute request for proposals to fund a research study focused on tobacco and opioid use among minority youth and young adults	Yes. MRC was able to distribute a RFP to fund a research study on tobacco and opioid use among minority youth and young adults.
Educate participants about the burden of tobacco use and opioids	No. MRC was unable to provide outreach to educate participants due to Covid-19.
Share preliminary data analysis. Submit abstracts and/or articles to peer-reviewed conferences and/or journals for consideration	No. The sharing of data analysis has been postponed due to the closing of schools due to Covid-19.
Advertise webinar within state using traditional and non-traditional forms of advertising	Yes. MRC utilized social media, email, and LISTSERVs to advertise the RFP.

Table A2. *Decrease initiation of tobacco use. Status of Planned Activities.*

<b>Planned Activities</b>	<b>Status (Was Progress Made?)</b>
Design an intervention relevant to minority students' use of emerging tobacco products. Present to students and staff about emerging tobacco products.	Yes. There was an intervention that was designed but not fully implemented to all targeted schools due to Covid-19.
Seek support of local school administration. Survey school administrators and faculty on knowledge about emerging tobacco products. Share results with stakeholders.	No. MRC was able to provide the interventions to a limited number of school administrators and faculty due to school closures amid Covid-19.
Educate school administrators and parents about emerging tobacco products.	No. MRC was unable to conduct this activity due to the school closures amid Covid-19.
Advertise the intervention and present at the local middle school	Yes. MRC was able to advertise the intervention and present at the schools that were able to receive the intervention.

Table A3. *Decrease initiation of tobacco use. Status of Planned Activities.*

<b>Planned Activities</b>	<b>Status (Was Progress Made?)</b>
Conduct tobacco imagery surveillance in designated minority communities	No. Project was delayed due to Covid 19.
Continue surveying community partners and other stakeholders to identify gaps in information related to tobacco imagery in minority communities and strategies to reduce aforementioned imagery. Share results with advisory boards and other stakeholders.	No. Project was delayed due to Covid 19.
Develop a product summarizing the surveillance in minority communities.	No. Project was delayed due to Covid 19.
Advertise product developed as a result of the survey efforts to educate decision makers and stakeholders. Submit write up to the Arkansas Department of Health to be included in TPCP Times Newsletter.	No. Project was delayed due to Covid 19.

Table A4. *Decrease tobacco use among adults and youth. Status of Planned Activities.*

<b>Planned Activities</b>	<b>Status (Was Progress Made?)</b>
Distribute request for proposals to fund research studies focused on tobacco cessation among African American & Hispanic women.	Yes. MRC was able to distribute a RFP to fund a research study on tobacco cessation among African-American & Hispanic women.
Share preliminary data analysis. Submit abstracts and/or articles to peer reviewed conferences and/or journals for consideration.	Unsure. Data was not available at the time.
Advertise RFP within the state using traditional and non-traditional forms of advertising.	Yes. MRC utilized social media, email, and LISTSERVs to advertise the RFP.

Table A5. *Decreased exposure to secondhand smoke. Status of Planned Activities.*

<b>Planned Activities</b>	<b>Status (Was Progress Made?)</b>
Distribute request for proposals to fund research study focused on decreasing minorities' exposure to secondhand smoke.	Yes. MRC was able to distribute a RFP to fund a research study on decreasing minorities' exposure to secondhand smoke.
Share preliminary data analysis. Submit abstracts and/or articles to peer reviewed conferences and/or journals for consideration.	N/A
Advertise webinar within state using traditional and non-traditional forms of advertising. Submit write up to the Arkansas Department of Health to be include in TPCP Times Newsletter.	Yes. There was a webinar on March 2020 related to tobacco-free multi-unit housing.

Table A6. *Sustainability. Status of Planned Activities.*

<b>Planned Activities</b>	<b>Status (Was Progress Made?)</b>
Submit at least two manuscripts and/or abstracts for peer review.	Yes. Three abstracts from MRC were created and submitted. One was submitted to the <i>Journal of Management, Spirituality &amp; Religion</i> . The other two were combined and submitted to the <i>Journal of Rural Health</i> .
Sponsor at least two teleconferences with external advisory board members. Expand promotion of the Minority Health Center.	Yes. At least one teleconference was conducted with a revised advisory board.
Foster collaborative research that connects research scientists from various disciplines across institutions.	Yes. Collaborative research is being fostered.
Use social media, local media, and the Centers' website to highlight MRC achievements.	Yes. MRC achievements were highlighted using social media.

## Appendix B

### University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Minority Research on Tobacco & Addictions Request for Proposals (RFP)

In November 2000, Arkansans passed Initiated Act One, which directed a portion of Arkansas' Master Tobacco Settlement revenue to the Arkansas Department of Health for tobacco prevention and cessation programs including funding specifically for tobacco prevention and cessation programs in minority communities. The Arkansas Department of Health has partnered with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff since 2002 to implement tobacco prevention and cessation in minority communities.

The mission of the Minority Research Center on Tobacco & Addictions is to provide assistance to the state (Arkansas) and nation in tobacco and other substance abuse research, prevention, education, technical assistance, and evaluation, especially in regard to minority populations (Blacks, Hispanics, Marshall Islanders, and Asians).

In 2019-2020 the Minority Research Center (MRC) is offering a unique source of funding that supports emerging scholars and researchers from all disciplines, who are engaged in evidence linked research that directly contributes to the elimination of smoking and tobacco use among minority populations. The purpose of the award is to gather preliminary data or demonstrate proof-of-principle for tobacco-related research with potential for high impact among minority populations in Arkansas. The research priorities are:

- Option I** – Research focused on tobacco cessation among African American women tobacco users
- Option II** – Research focused on tobacco cessation among Hispanic women tobacco users
- Option III** – Research focused on decrease minorities' exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS)
- Option IV** – Research focused on tobacco and opioid use prevalence among minority youth and young adults

**Applicants may apply for funds under Option I through IV.**

Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States. Each year, over 400,000 people nationwide die from tobacco- related illnesses. In Arkansas, smoking claims more than 5800 lives annually.

**Currently Arkansas ranks:**

- 1st State to have a smoke-free car law
- 1st State to have smoke-free medical grounds law
- 3rd in the nation to include statewide smoke-free psychiatric facilities/grounds
- Among first in the nation to restrict sales to minors of e-cigarettes and other e-nicotine products

**Toll of Tobacco Use in Arkansas**

- Each year 5800 Arkansans die prematurely from illnesses caused by smoking.
- Approximately 68,700 Arkansas youth are expected to die prematurely as a result of smoking. Secondhand smoke kills approximately 510 non-smoking Arkansans every year. Each year tobacco use costs Arkansas upwards of \$1.2 billion, including at least \$242 million in state-funded Medicaid health care costs and an additional \$1.4 billion in lost productivity.

### Barriers to Tobacco Elimination

- Tobacco use/promotion is woven into popular culture: social media, TV shows, movies, music lyrics and videos, and video gaming/apps.
- Tobacco companies are marketing products relying on menthol, fruit, and other sweet flavorings to lure young population. These products include dip/chew, spitless, electronic nicotine devices, little cigars, and cigarillos.

### Target Population

Special populations that are disproportionately burdened by smoking are especially relevant. These include persons with chronic mental illness, substance use disorders, those in the criminal justice system, patients with chronic illnesses caused by smoking (e.g., COPD, cancer, heart disease), diabetes young adults, disadvantaged socioeconomic communities, who live in rural and/or medically underserved areas, racial and ethnic minority populations, etc.

Proposals that will evaluate the results of the intervention(s) in terms of actual numbers of smokers who attempt to quit and/or successfully quit are encouraged. During review the intended outcome of the project is given careful consideration and projects with the maximum likelihood of impact and measurement of outcomes will be given high priority.

### Disease Burden Overview

At the forefront of the fight in Arkansas is the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (TPCP) at the Arkansas Department of Health. Launched in 2001, the TPCP has several components aimed at reducing tobacco use by Arkansans. TPCP provides data and resources:

<http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programsServices/tobaccoprevent/Pages/DataReports.aspx>

Tobacco use causes devastating disease and premature death in every population in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website is a comprehensive resource for Smoking and Tobacco Use Information.

[http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/health\\_disparities/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/health_disparities/index.htm)  
<http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/TobaccoUsePregnancy/index.htm>

### Related Guidelines and Recommendations

Current clinical practice guidelines and systems-change resources can be found at the website Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence. April 2013. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/clinicians-providers/guidelines/recommendations/tobacco/clinicians/update/index.html>

### Example National Targets

The U.S. government program, Healthy People ([www.Healthypeople.gov](http://www.Healthypeople.gov)) includes a 2020 Tobacco Use Goal to “Reduce illness, disability, and death related to tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure.” Healthy People 2020 objectives are selected to communicate high-priority health issues. Example objectives include:

#### TU-2.1 Reduce tobacco use by adolescents

Baseline: 26.0 percent of adolescents in grades 9 through 12 used cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, or cigars in the past 30 days in 2009

Target: 21.0 percent

TU-3.5 Reduce the initiation of the use of tobacco products by young adults aged 18 to 25 Baseline: 10.9 percent of young adults aged 18 to 25 years who had not previously used tobacco products in their lifetime first used tobacco products in the past 12 months in 2008 Target: 8.9 percent

TU-6 Increase smoking cessation during pregnancy

Baseline: 11.3 percent of females aged 18 to 49 years (who reported having a live birth in the past 5 years and smoking at any time during their pregnancy with their last child), stopped smoking during the first trimester of their pregnancy and stayed off cigarettes for the rest of their pregnancy in 2005.

Target: 30.0 percent

TU- 11.1 Reduce the proportion of children aged 3 to 11 years were exposed to secondhand smoke

Baseline: 52.2 percent of children aged 3 to 11 years were exposed to secondhand smoke in 2005-08

Target: 47.0 percent

TU-11.2 Reduce the proportion of adolescents aged 12 to 17 years exposed to secondhand smoke

Baseline: 45.5 percent of nonsmoking adolescents aged 12 to 17 years were exposed to secondhand smoke in 2005-08

Target: 41.0 percent

TU-11.3 Reduce the proportion of adults aged 18 years and older exposed to secondhand smoke

Baseline: 37.6 percent of nonsmoking adults aged 18 years and older were exposed to secondhand smoke in 2005-08(age adjusted to the year 2000 standard population)

Target: 33.8

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/tobacco-use/objectives>

The Coordinating Council of the Arkansas Chronic Disease Forum, the Chronic Disease programs of the Arkansas Department of Health, and their Coalitions and partners, developed a set of Arkansas-specific Healthy People 2020 Chronic Disease Objectives (ARHP2020 CDz Objectives) related to chronic disease prevention and control.

<http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programsServices/chronicDisease/Initiatives/Pages/HealthyPeople2020.aspx>

<b>Eligibility</b>
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Investigators from Arkansas not-for-profit organizations are eligible for Minority Research Center funding, including but not limited to colleges, universities, hospitals, laboratories, research institutions, community-based organizations, voluntary health agencies, health maintenance organizations and other tobacco control groups. Organizations cannot accept funding or support from the tobacco industry. The funding is open to investigators holding an MD, PhD, or equivalent. The PI must supervise the research project and any trainees directly and in person.

## Details on Grant Award Mechanisms

### **Option I: Research focused on tobacco cessation use among African American women tobacco users.**

**Purpose:** To gather preliminary data or demonstrate proof-of-principle to support the feasibility of a new paradigm or research hypothesis. High quality of innovation and clear potential impact are two key components of this mechanism, with the ultimate goal of providing initial support for research with a strong rationale, resulting in funding leverage from other funding agencies.

**Anticipated Number of Grants: 1 Maximum Award Amount per Year:** \$9,999

*Successful applicants under this RFP may be renewed for and additional year. However, present and future funding is contingent upon the availability of Minority Research Center funds.*

**Maximum Duration:** 2 years

**Allowable Direct Costs:** Salaries, fringe benefits; supplies; equipment, travel.

**Project-Related Travel:** As needed (must be fully justified).

**Indirect Costs: Not Allowable**

#### **Award Requirements:**

- Applicants must have a PI-status at the sponsoring institution.
- Awardees are required to commit at least 5% of their research effort each year to activities supported by this award.
- All research must be conducted in Arkansas.
- No advance payments will be made. Grant amounts may be claimed only on a reimbursement basis. A separate financial record must be maintained by the Awardee.
- The Awardee must submit a final report on study results to the MRC within 3 months after the finalization of the study. Reprints of articles, published or in press or copies of draft manuscripts, should be included with all reports. From time to time, the MRC Program Manager may ask for information on study progress.
- Awardees are expected to publish their findings in scientific journals. In addition to manuscript publication, Awardees may present their findings at scientific meetings. All publications that result from a project supported by the MRC must carry the following acknowledgment: "This research was supported by University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Minority Research Center on Tobacco and Addictions, which is supported by the Arkansas Department of Health, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program with Master Settlement Agreement dollars, to (name of Awardee)". Awardees will provide to the MRC organizers/members the opportunity to view manuscripts or abstracts 30 days prior to submission for publication or other public disclosure. MRC will review all manuscripts and abstracts and may provide comments on content. The Principal Investigator will consider any such comments in good faith, but is under no obligation to incorporate any MRC suggestion.

### **Option II: Research to address tobacco cessation use among Hispanic women tobacco users**

**Purpose:** To gather preliminary data or demonstrate proof-of-principle to support the feasibility of a new paradigm or research hypothesis. High quality of innovation and clear potential impact are two key components of this mechanism, with the ultimate goal of providing initial support for research with a strong rationale, resulting in funding leverage from other funding agencies.

**Anticipated Number of Grants: 1 Award Amount per Year:** \$9,999

*Successful applicants under this RFP may be renewed for and additional year. However, present and future funding is contingent upon the availability of Minority Research Center funds.*

**Maximum Duration:** 2 years

**Allowable Direct Costs:** Salaries, fringe benefits; supplies; equipment, travel.

**Project-Related Travel:** As needed (must be fully justified).

**Indirect Costs: Not Allowable**

**Award Requirements:**

- Applicants must have a PI-status at the sponsoring institution.
- Awardees are required to commit at least 5% of their research effort each year to activities supported by this award.
- All research must be conducted in Arkansas.
- No advance payments will be made. Grant amounts may be claimed only on a reimbursement basis. A separate financial record must be maintained by the Awardee.
- The Awardee must submit a final report on study results to the MRC within 3 months after the finalization of the study. Reprints of articles, published or in press or copies of draft manuscripts, should be included with all reports. From time to time, the MRC Program Manager may ask for information on study progress.
- Awardees are expected to publish their findings in scientific journals. In addition to manuscript publication, Awardees may present their findings at scientific meetings. All publications that result from a project supported by the MRC must carry the following acknowledgment: "This research was supported by University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Minority Research Center on Tobacco and Addictions, which is supported by the Arkansas Department of Health, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program with Master Settlement Agreement dollars, to (name of Awardee)". Awardees will provide to the MRC organizers/members the opportunity to view manuscripts or abstracts 30 days prior to submission for publication or other public disclosure. MRC will review all manuscripts and abstracts and may provide comments on content. The Principal Investigator will consider any such comments in good faith, but is under no obligation to incorporate any MRC suggestions.

**Option III: Research focused on decreasing minorities' exposure to secondhand smoke.**

**Purpose:** To gather preliminary data or demonstrate proof-of-principle to support the feasibility of a new paradigm or research hypothesis. High quality of innovation and clear potential impact are two key components of this mechanism, with the ultimate goal of providing initial support for research with a strong rationale, resulting in funding leverage from other funding agencies.

**Anticipated Number of Grants: 1 Award Amount per Year:** \$9,999

*Successful applicants under this RFP may be renewed for and additional year. However, present and future funding is contingent upon the availability of Minority Research Center funds.*

**Maximum Duration:** 2 years

**Allowable Direct Costs:** Salaries, fringe benefits; supplies; equipment, travel.

**Project-Related Travel:** As needed (must be fully justified).

**Indirect Costs: Not Allowable**

**Award Requirements:**

- Applicants must have a PI-status at the sponsoring institution.
- Awardees are required to commit at least 5% of their research effort each year to activities supported by this award.
- All research must be conducted in Arkansas.
- No advance payments will be made. Grant amounts may be claimed only on a reimbursement basis. A separate financial record must be maintained by the Awardee.
- The Awardee must submit a final report on study results to the MRC within 3 months after the finalization of the study. Reprints of articles, published or in press or copies of draft manuscripts, should be included with all reports. From time to time, the MRC Program Manager may ask for information on study progress.
- Awardees are expected to publish their findings in scientific journals. In addition to manuscript publication, Awardees may present their findings at scientific meetings. All publications that result from a project supported by the MRC must carry the following acknowledgment: "This research was supported by University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Minority Research Center on Tobacco and Addictions, which is supported by the Arkansas Department of Health, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program with Master Settlement Agreement dollars, to (name of Awardee)". Awardees will



provide to the MRC organizers/members the opportunity to view manuscripts or abstracts 30 days prior to submission for publication or other public disclosure. MRC will review all manuscripts and abstracts and may provide comments on content. The Principal Investigator will consider any such comments in good faith, but is under no obligation to incorporate any MRC suggestions.

**Option IV: Research focus on tobacco and opioid use prevalence among minority youth and young adults**

**Purpose:** To gather preliminary data or demonstrate proof-of-principle to support the feasibility of a new paradigm or research hypothesis. High quality of innovation and clear potential impact are two key components of this mechanism, with the ultimate goal of providing initial support for research with a strong rationale, resulting in funding leverage from other funding agencies.

**Anticipated Number of Grants: 2 Amount per Year: \$9,999**

*Successful applicants under this RFP may be renewed for an additional year. However, present and future funding is contingent upon the availability of Minority Research Center funds.*

**Maximum Duration:** 2 year

**Allowable Direct Costs:** Salaries, fringe benefits; supplies; equipment, travel.

**Project-Related Travel:** As needed (must be fully justified).

**Indirect Costs: Not Allowable**

**Award Requirements:**

- Applicants must have a PI-status at the sponsoring institution.
- Awardees are required to commit at least 5% of their research effort each year to activities supported by this award.
- All research must be conducted in Arkansas.
- No advance payments will be made. Grant amounts may be claimed only on a reimbursement basis. A separate financial record must be maintained by the Awardee.
- The Awardee must submit a final report on study results to the MRC within 3 months after the finalization of the study. Reprints of articles, published or in press or copies of draft manuscripts, should be included with all reports. From time to time, the MRC Program Manager may ask for information on study progress.
- Awardees are expected to publish their findings in scientific journals. In addition to manuscript publication, Awardees may present their findings at scientific meetings. All publications that result from a project supported by the MRC must carry the following acknowledgment: "This research was supported by University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Minority Research Center on Tobacco and Addictions, which is supported by the Arkansas Department of Health, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program with Master Settlement Agreement dollars, to (name of Awardee)". Awardees will provide to the MRC organizers/members the opportunity to view manuscripts or abstracts 30 days prior to submission for publication or other public disclosure. MRC will review all manuscripts and abstracts and may provide comments on content. The Principal Investigator will consider any such comments in good faith, but is under no obligation to incorporate any MRC suggestions.

**Key Dates**

***RFP Issued***  
***Application submission due***  
***Application reviewed Applicants notified***  
***Awards Period***

**August 20, 2019**  
**September 20, 2019**  
**October 1, 2019**  
**October 7, 2019**  
**July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020**

## How to Submit

**Requirements for Submission:** Ensure that your proposal falls within the research priorities of the Minority Research Center on Tobacco & Addictions Request for Proposals. Non-human studies and educational programs fall outside of the scope of the MRC 2019-2020 RFP and will not be considered for an award. The application consists of 3 main sections:

- A. MRC Application Form
- B. Budget
- C. Supporting documents

Save proposal as a Word file and email it to [mrc@uapb.edu](mailto:mrc@uapb.edu). Do not convert this application form to a PDF file. Include an abbreviated CV (no more than 5 pages) and a maximum of 5 supporting documents (optional).

*Deadline for receipt of proposals is 5:00 PM CST on Friday, September 20.*

**Applications will be evaluated using the following 100 point scale:**

- Research design - 35 points
- Feasibility of accomplishing the project - 20 points
- Investigators' qualifications - 10 points
- Significance of the project to a minority community – 25 points
- Probability for Significant Future Funding – 10 points

**Applicants Notification:** All applicants will be notified via email by the date noted above.

If you have questions regarding this RFP, direct them to Earnette Sullivan, Program Manager at [mrc@uapb.edu](mailto:mrc@uapb.edu) or call 870-730-1137.



## Appendix C



Dr. Marian Evans Lothery

Dr. Marian Evans Lothery is the Coordinator for the Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office (MISRGO) at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff™ (UAPB). Her background consists of approximately 22 years of experience in program planning and development, capacity building, grant writing and program evaluation. Dr. Evans- Lothery completed a Master of Public Health degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, LA, and a Doctor of Public Health degree in Public Health Leadership from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist, a Certified Grant Evaluator and member of the American Evaluation Association. Dr. Evans-Lothery has served on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Jefferson County and the Arkansas Coalition for Excellence (now the Arkansas Non-Profit Alliance). She has also served on two start-up non-profit boards for youth in the local community. Dr. Lothery currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Arkansas Cancer Coalition.

## Appendix D

### Advisory Board Members

Tekeda F. Ferguson, PhD, MPH, MSPH  
Assistant Professor  
Epidemiology  
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center  
School of Public Health

Katherine Donald  
Executive Director  
Coalition for a Tobacco Free Arkansas

Tonia R. Moore, MSHCM  
Director  
The Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living (TFL)

Melvena Wilson, DrPH, MPH  
Assistant Professor  
Tuskegee University  
Department of Graduate Public Health

Dina M. Jones, PhD, MPH  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
Center for the Study of Tobacco  
NIDA T32 Translational Training in Addiction Research