

Pediatric & Reproductive Environmental Health Scholars Program

Frequently Asked Questions

RFA-ES-20-007

(<https://go.usa.gov/xGJwW>)

Pre-application webinar web page -- <https://go.usa.gov/x7tjY>

Pre-application Notice in the Guide – [NOT-ES-21-001](#)

Following are questions that we received since releasing the RFA.

Q: Must you have a partnership with a PEHSU?

A: Yes. It is a requirement.

Q: Why just PEHSU when other clinical translation groups exist that do the same thing?

A: We created this program specifically to leverage an existing federally supported program with expertise in pediatric and reproductive environmental health [spelled out] and a history of fostering similar training programs.

Q: There is a PEHSU in Mexico. Could I partner with them?

A: Sorry. Foreign components aren't allowed.

Q: What is the intended PEHSU involvement?

A: The PEHSU is envisioned as providing expertise in communication and research translation.

Q: Is this just research training?

A: It is a research training grant, but it also requires a focus on communication and research translation.

Q: What is the proportion of activities related to PEHSU vs. research?

A: We leave that up to you to develop and justify a program that plays to your strengths.

Q: Is the research component of the scholars' work supposed to be related to environmental health or is it flexible?

A: Scholar research must be in environmental health and within the mission of the NIEHS. Applicant organization(s) must demonstrate a strong/robust environmental health research portfolio.

Q: Are multi-site collaborative submissions OK, encouraged?

A: Yes. They are allowed, but they should make sense.

Q: Are the intended awardees individual candidates? Or is the award going to a program that will then find candidates to fill positions?

A: The K12 is an institutional award, so the university/program has the responsibility for identifying and selecting scholars.

- Q: Who is the K grant targeting, particularly as it relates to their primary department?
A: It is for scholars coming from a clinical setting and receiving environmental health research training.
- Q: Mentors can't get any salary support, can other PEHSU or non-PEHSU-affiliated academics get funding?
A: Consultant costs, equipment, supplies, travel for key persons, and other program-related expenses may be included in the proposed budget.
- Q: Only \$30K to support people involved with the program?
A: Correct. Up to \$30K per year.
- Q: Does the program need to be two or three years? Could it be five?
A: The length of the scholar training needs to be justified.
- Q: How many scholars are expected for each program? Three or up to three?
A: Three, but we recognize that this program is new, so it might not be feasible to get three in the first year.
- Q: If you are a Mentor or Key Personnel on the award, does that impact your own future K?
A: No. You are not the PI.
- Q: Are we allowed to integrate with other extant training programs (such as the NRSA-funded program)? How could we tie into it? Can we leverage them?
A: Yes. There is language that recognizes such possibilities. How you do it, is up to you. However, we would expect that the program would establish its own identity.
- Q: Are programs expected to provide scholars with a degree (MPH) at the end?
A: No. However, you could do it if it makes sense as part of your training curriculum.
- Q: You mentioned the possibility of getting an MPH in Year1. Please note that \$25K is likely not enough for this training.
A: The \$25K can contribute to the cost of MPH training.
- Q: Which tables am I supposed to use?
A: Please use the K Instructions.
- Q: Are nurses eligible for this program?
A: Yes, as long as they meet the scholar requirements.
- Q: Is there an FTE requirement for the Scholars?
A: Yes. 9 calendar months (75% time).
- Q: What does the 75%-time entail? Just research? Where does the PEHSU side fit into this time?
A: Applicants can design their program to use that time appropriately. Applicants need to make sure it is "protected" time for the scholar.

Q: Do PhD epidemiologists qualify for this program? The FOA content seems to focus on clinical (MDs, nursing professionals, etc).

A: Yes. Jr. faculty in epidemiology would qualify if they meet the scholar requirements outlined in the FOA. Specifically noted in the FOA -- *At the time of appointment to the K12 Program, candidates for PREHS Scholars must:*

(1) *Hold a clinical doctoral degree (e.g., MD, DDS, DMD, DO, DC, OD, ND, DVM, PharmD, or PhD in clinical disciplines) with a primary specialty focused on children and reproductive health (e.g., pediatrics, family medicine, women's health/obstetrics);*

(2) *Have completed postgraduate residency training in pediatrics, family medicine, women's health/obstetrics, or equivalent if from a different healthcare profession;*

Q: Can you explain the concept of how this program (research program) will "bridge" clinical practice, community-level engagement, and teaching?

A: This K12 institutional career development program is just that, a program to foster the career development of clinically trained healthcare professionals with experience in environmental health research, community engagement, and teaching. It is up to the applicants to propose a comprehensive career development program that will address and bridge these goals.

Q: I don't see a separate attachment for specific aims in the PHS 398 Research Training Program Plan Form. Could you please clarify the page limit for specific aims? Should it be included in 2. Program Plan?

A: Specific aims can be mentioned in the Project Summary/Abstract and should be included in the Program Plan.

Q: Should advisory committee members be listed as key personnel?

A: No. If you wish to show that they are committed to helping with the program, then perhaps have them include letters of support.

Q: Should advisory committee members be considered as participating faculty for the purposes of the data tables?

A: It depends. If they are from the pool of Participating Faculty, then yes. If they are outside consultants brought in for advisory purposes only, then, no.

Q: In the FOA there is the following line: "Data for Scholars should be entered into the Postdoctoral sections of the Data Tables". Does this mean that scholar + postdocs should be included or that postdoc information is not needed anywhere in Tables 1 and 2 and instead information for scholars only should be supplied?

A: Postdoc information is not needed. Only information for Scholars should be provided.

Q: For the purposes of finding "Total scholars" and "Eligible scholars" in Table 1 would it be correct to consider this as equivalent to "Total Fellows + Early Career Faculty" and "Eligible Fellows + Early Career Faculty"?

A: The column "Total Postdocs" includes all Jr. Faculty (as noted in the FOA) that each participating department has regardless of relevance to the FOA. "Eligible postdocs" are those individuals that would meet the criteria outlined in the FOA and would be eligible for support as scholars under the proposed award.