

# Maintaining and Enriching Environmental Epidemiology Cohorts to Support Scientific and Workforce Diversity (U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### [RFA-ES-22-001](#)

**Note: To be responsive to this FOA, applicants must include a diversity plan.** The plan should describe in sufficient detail how planned cohort enrichment and data sharing activities will strengthen the environmental health science and epidemiology workforce diversity and enhance the diversity of epidemiology cohorts (where relevant).

Broadly, these activities may include:

- Expanding data collection for understudied populations.
- Adopting data sharing practices that maximize appropriate data sharing with diverse communities.
- Adopting data sharing practices that foster scientific collaborations to include minority-serving institutions and researchers from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups that have been underrepresented in the biomedical sciences.

Within the scope of this FOA to support cohort maintenance and resource infrastructure enrichment and enrichment of cohort data management and broad sharing of cohort resources, diversity activities may include but are not limited to:

- Infrastructure support to retain personnel, including community partnerships, essential to continue and expand cohort enrollment of understudied populations.
- Infrastructure support to add or retain personnel essential to the collection or development of additional measures necessary to advance environmental health equity and environmental justice.
- Infrastructure support and personnel essential to data preparation to facilitate and ensure broader data sharing activities that include, but are not limited to, outreach to promote diversity in scientific collaborations.

- Enhanced outreach activities to bring greater awareness to the research community of opportunities to pursue new and possibly unlikely collaborations and interdisciplinary partnerships.
- Enhanced outreach activities to strengthen and sustain community engagement and partnerships.

**Questions we have received since the release of this FOA:**

**Q:** Is the \$250,000 budget annual or over a period of five years?

**A:** The budget is capped at \$250K direct cost per year for up to 5 years.

**Q:** What is meant by existing environmental epidemiology cohort – should the cohort be one that has been in existence for some time or could be one that has been recently formed?

**A:** The RFA does not specify a required period of existence. However, this FOA cannot be used to establish a new cohort.

**Q:** Does the existing environmental epidemiology cohort have to be funded by NIEHS?

**A:** No

**Q:** If enrollment will soon be ending, can the support be used only for retention?

**A:** Yes

**Q:** Are cohorts outside of the US allowed?

**A:** International/foreign cohorts and sites are allowed but foreign site PIs or institutions are not eligible to apply.