

NIEHS AND EPA CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DISEASE PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTERS

Technical Assistance Webinar

RFA-ES-12-001

Who We Are at NIEHS

Program Directors:

Kimberly Gray, Annette Kirshner and Cindy Lawler

Scientific Review:

Linda Bass

Grants Management:

Donald Ellis

National Center for Environmental Research (NCER)

Project Officers:

Rich Callan and Nica Louie

EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD)

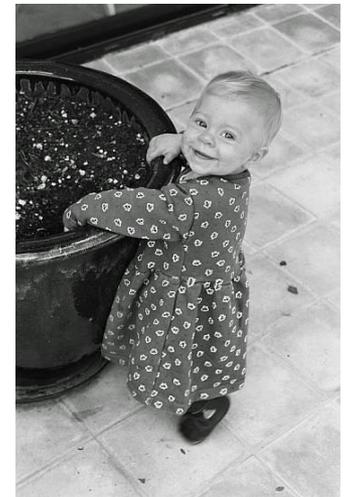
STAR Grants – Science To Achieve Results

ORD's Principal Extramural Grant Program

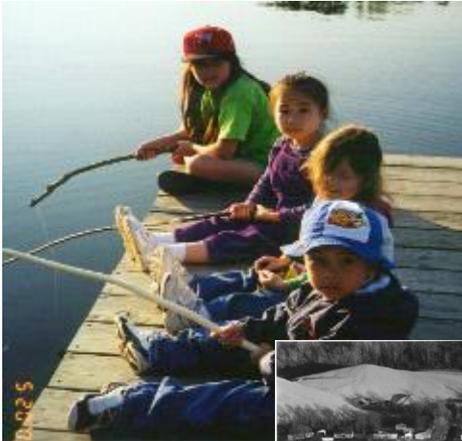


“...Children’s health and safety is an integral part of EPA’s mission and continues to be a high priority for the Agency...”

– EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson (11/08/2009)



Children's Environmental Health & Disease Prevention Research Centers



- Promote multidisciplinary interactions
- Turn research into real world interventions and solutions
- Establish a national network of Centers and researchers
- Provide community outreach

Funding Opportunity Reissue (P01)

- Posted: April 5, 2012
- LOI: June 17, 2012
- Due Date: July 17, 2012
- Review Date: November 2012
- Council Date: January 2013
- Start Date: April 2013



Anticipated Funding and Potential Number of Awards

- \$12 million total budgeted per year for five years from NIEHS and EPA combined, up to 7 awards
- \$1 million per year direct costs limit
- \$200K set aside for 4th (optional) research project to partner with institutions not highly funded for research and development capacity

[RFA-ES-12-001](#)

Program Objectives

- Capitalize on research findings and resources from epidemiological and clinical studies
- Enhance application of novel findings and approaches in areas of basic or mechanistic research
- Develop and apply new or improved biomarkers, environmental measures, exposure factors and models
- Train new junior investigators to address emerging issues in children's environmental health
- Ensure active participation of identified stakeholders and broader community in the research process and translation of findings

Required Components

- 3 Research projects (each similar to an R01)
 - Optional Fourth Project
- Community Engagement including a Community Outreach and Translation Core (COTC)
- Health Specialist
- Career Development Plan
- Administrative Core
- Data Sharing Plan

Optional 4th Research Project (NEW)

- Designed to expand research capabilities in children's environmental health for institutions traditionally not highly funded for research (<\$35M/year Federal funding)
- Develop capacity at institutions which have historically provided services to health disparity populations including minority, low-income and tribal communities
- Should support training of new investigators
- Meaningful and active collaboration with both institutions
- Well integrated with other research projects
- Describe how the project will advance the field in protecting children's environmental health

Community Engagement

- Active participation of relevant stakeholders
- Community Outreach Translation Core (COTC) required
 - Develop strategies to translate scientific findings to:
 - Community
 - Clinicians
 - Policy makers to use to protect children’s health
- Examples of other mechanisms for community engagement
 - CBPR planning process for collaboration both researchers and community
 - Community Advisory Board

Health Specialist

- Qualified active researcher to assist with coordination and integration of scientific projects
- Ensure that the science under investigation will translate to clinical practice or improved public health
- Discipline that has direct contact with mothers and/or young children and relevant to the Center's scientific theme
- NOT the Center Director/Principal Investigator
- Should commit at least 1.2 Calendar Months/year (aka 10% effort)

Career Development Plan

- Designed to foster the next generation of scientists in children's environmental health research
- New, junior faculty-level investigator, Faculty Development Investigator (FDI), encourage applications from institutions with <\$35M/year in R&D Federal funding
- Fewer than 8 years postdoc experience
- At least 3 person-months and long-term commitment to research
- Application should include (1) Letter from candidate outlining goals and (2) Description of the career development proposed
- If candidate unknown, general plan to recruit FDI is required

Administrative Core

- Provides oversight, coordination and integration of Center activities
- Each individual committed to defined percent effort
- External Advisory Committee (EAC) is part of Admin Core
 - Two-thirds of EAC membership from outside grantee institution
- Both Health Specialist and Junior Faculty Investigator should be included in this portion of application

Data Sharing Plan

- Data sharing plan expected (or state why not possible)
- Facilitate data sharing with other Children's Centers, federal researchers, the public and other key stakeholders.
- Sharing data reinforces open scientific inquiry, encourages diversity of analysis and opinion, makes possible testing of new or alternative hypotheses and methods of analysis
- May enable exploration of topics not envisioned by the initial investigators
- Permits the creation of new datasets when data from multiple sources are combined.

Page Limitations

Overview of the Program Project: 12 pages

Research Project :

- Cover Page: 1 page
- Summary: 1 page
- Specific Aims: 1 page
- Research Strategy: 12 pages

Administrative, Facility, & Community Outreach/Translation Core:

- Cover Page: 1 page
- Summary: 1 page
- Specific Aims: 1 page
- Core Structure, Administration & Services: 6 pages

Research Projects *

- **Scored Review Criteria**

- Significance
- Investigator(s)
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment

- **Additional Review Criteria**

- Protections for Human Subjects
- Incl. Women, Minorities and Children
- Vertebrate Animals
- Biohazards

- **Overall Impact Score**

- **Additional Review Considerations**

- Resource Sharing Plans
- Budget and Period of Support

Criterion Scores

* Each assigned reviewer provides scores (1-9) for each criterion. The Overall Impact Score is **NOT** an average of these Criterion Scores.

Core Components

Each Core will be reviewed and receive an Impact Score

(no Criterion Scores)

Overall Center Impact/Priority Score

The Overall Impact Score is **NOT an average of the different components, but the scientific merit of the Center as a whole. Whether the whole of the Center is greater than sum of components.**

Merit of Projects and Cores: The coordination and interrelationships of all individual research projects and cores to the common theme of the Center. The interactive and collaborative research opportunities that exist within the program. The scientific gain of combining the components.

Integration: The overall quality of the synergy among the research projects and cores.

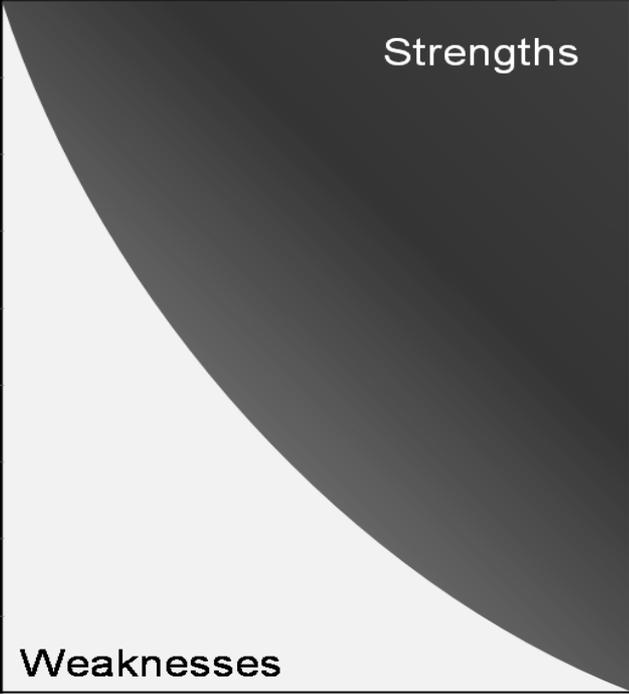
Leadership: The ability of the Program Director and their commitment to develop a well-defined central research focus for the Center.

Translation: The bidirectional flow and dissemination of information that involve scientists and public health professionals that can lead to public health action.

Involvement of a Health Specialist and the **Career Development** of new/junior investigators in EHS.

Final Score
(Range: 10-90)

9-point Scoring Descriptions

Impact	Score	Descriptor	Strengths/Weaknesses
High Impact	1	Exceptional	
	2	Outstanding	
	3	Excellent	
Moderate Impact	4	Very Good	
	5	Good	
	6	Satisfactory	
Low Impact	7	Fair	
	8	Marginal	
	9	Poor	

Non-numeric score options: NR = Not Recommended for Further Consideration, DF = Deferred, AB = Abstention, CF = Conflict, NP = Not Present, ND=Not Discussed

Questions?