Date: Signed by the DERT Deputy Director on 8/31/2026

Concept Clearance

Branch: PHB

Council Period: 202610

Concept Title: Children's centers

Point of Contact: Gray, Kimberly

Introduction

NIEHS has developed a strong and sustained base of Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Research programs and projects through its solicited and unsolicited programs over the past decade. In 2020, NIEHS created a new program referred to as the Collaborative Centers in Children's Environmental Health Research and Translation (CEHRT) to capitalize on NIHs investment in science and support of multi-disciplinary research teams to address the environmental challenges to children at the local, regional and national level. We focused on establishing a new program to facilitate translation of the existing support research into tangible tools, methods, and activities to protect children's health from environmental threats while maintaining the research resource to support early career development and projects directed at emerging and time-sensitive issues relevant to CEH.

Research Goals and Scope

The program goals are to:
1. Facilitate interaction among experts in children's environmental health science, communication research, and behavioral and social sciences to engage partners to assist in moving the science into public health and clinical practice.
2. Synthesize and translate extant CEH research into effective communication tools/strategies, dissemination methods, and educational activities that can be used by partners to improve the health of children.
3. Stimulate and accelerate pilot projects that address emerging environmental health concerns and exposures as well as test new tools, methods and intervention or prevention strategies.

Mechanism and Justification

NIEHS would like to continue and expand the Centers program so that it could function as a regional and national resource in CEH; facilitate research and career development of the next generation of CEH experts; and to sustain and enhance partnerships to assist in research translation efforts. Each center will support a strong base of subject matter expertise in CEH to accelerate the research findings into practice to protect children's health. Centers will be encouraged to reach outside their academic institutions to bring in the right balance of expertise and disciplines to support research and translation efforts and activities across the US.