

Limited Competition: Specialized Centers of Excellence on Environmental Health Disparities Research [P50 Clinical Trial Optional]

Technical Assistance Webinar RFA-MD-20-001

October 9, 2019
NIMHD, NIEHS, NICHD



NIH National Institute
on Minority Health
and Health Disparities

Who We Are at NIH

National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities

Program Director

Nishadi Rajapakse

Scientific Review

Tom Vollberg (LOI contact)

Maryline Laude-Sharp

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Program Directors

Symma Finn and Liam O'Fallon, Claudia Thompson

National Institute of Child Health and Development

Program Director

Juanita Chinn



National Institute
on Minority Health
and Health Disparities



Centers of Excellence on Environmental Health Disparities Research (P50)

Program Goals



- Promote **basic and applied research** to assess and mitigate environmentally driven health disparities
- Develop **capacity** to expand ability of stakeholders to participate in research
- Develop methods to **integrate** the multiple factors that contribute to EHDs
- Advance **community engagement** that is culturally appropriate and that will **benefit** affected communities



RFA-MD-20-001

Funding Opportunity: Key Dates

- Posted: September 20, 2019
- LOI: October 22, 2019
(Letter of Intent)
- Due Date: November 22, 2019
- Review Date: March, 2020
- Council Date: May, 2020
- Earliest Start Date: July 1, 2020



Anticipated Funding and Potential Number of Awards

\$4.3 million –
combined budget from NIH per year for five years

Up to 3-4 awards –
potential number of Centers

\$950K/year –
Direct Costs per Center



“Limited Competition” Special Eligibility Criteria

- The proposed center has a significant number of members of health disparity populations enrolled as students in the institution
- Center staff have been effective in assisting students from health disparity populations to complete a program of study or training and receive the advanced degree(s) offered.
- Center leadership have made significant recruitment efforts to increase the number of full time faculty or administrators from health disparity populations.

➤ ***Application must address the special requirements listed in the FOA***



Special Requirements:

Section 3. Additional Information on Eligibility

To be eligible for this FOA, institutions of higher education must meet the following criteria:

- Have a significant number of members of health disparity populations enrolled as students in the institution, including individuals accepted for enrollment in the institution. NIH-designated health disparity populations are Blacks or African Americans, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, and sexual and gender minorities.*
- Have been effective in assisting such students of the institution to complete the program of education or training and receive the degree involved.*
- Have made significant efforts to recruit minority students to enroll in and graduate from the institution, which may include providing means-tested scholarships and other financial assistance as appropriate.*
- Have made significant recruitment efforts to increase the number of minority or other members of health disparity populations serving in full-time faculty or administrative positions at the institutions*

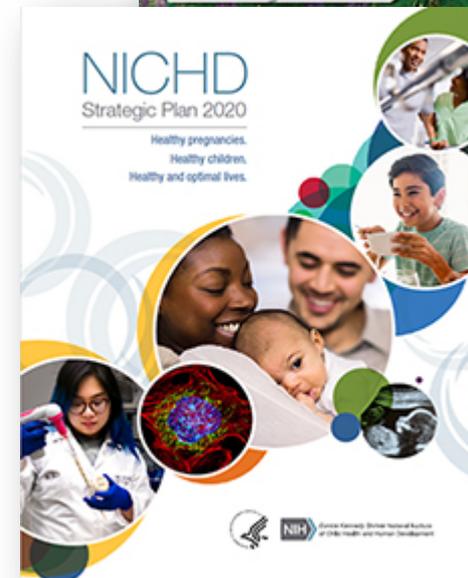


IC Specific Interests

Many of the research topics of interest overlap the participating Institute's strategic plans.

Each of the three ICs has a unique focus within the topics:

- **NIMHD** – the combined impact of physical and social stressors; built environment
- **NIEHS** – focus on combined environmental stressors, cumulative exposures, indoor air pollution (built environment)
- **NICHD** – the impact of combined stressors on maternal morbidity and mortality



Purpose

Support Specialized Centers of Excellence
with an Environmental Health Disparities
thematic focus

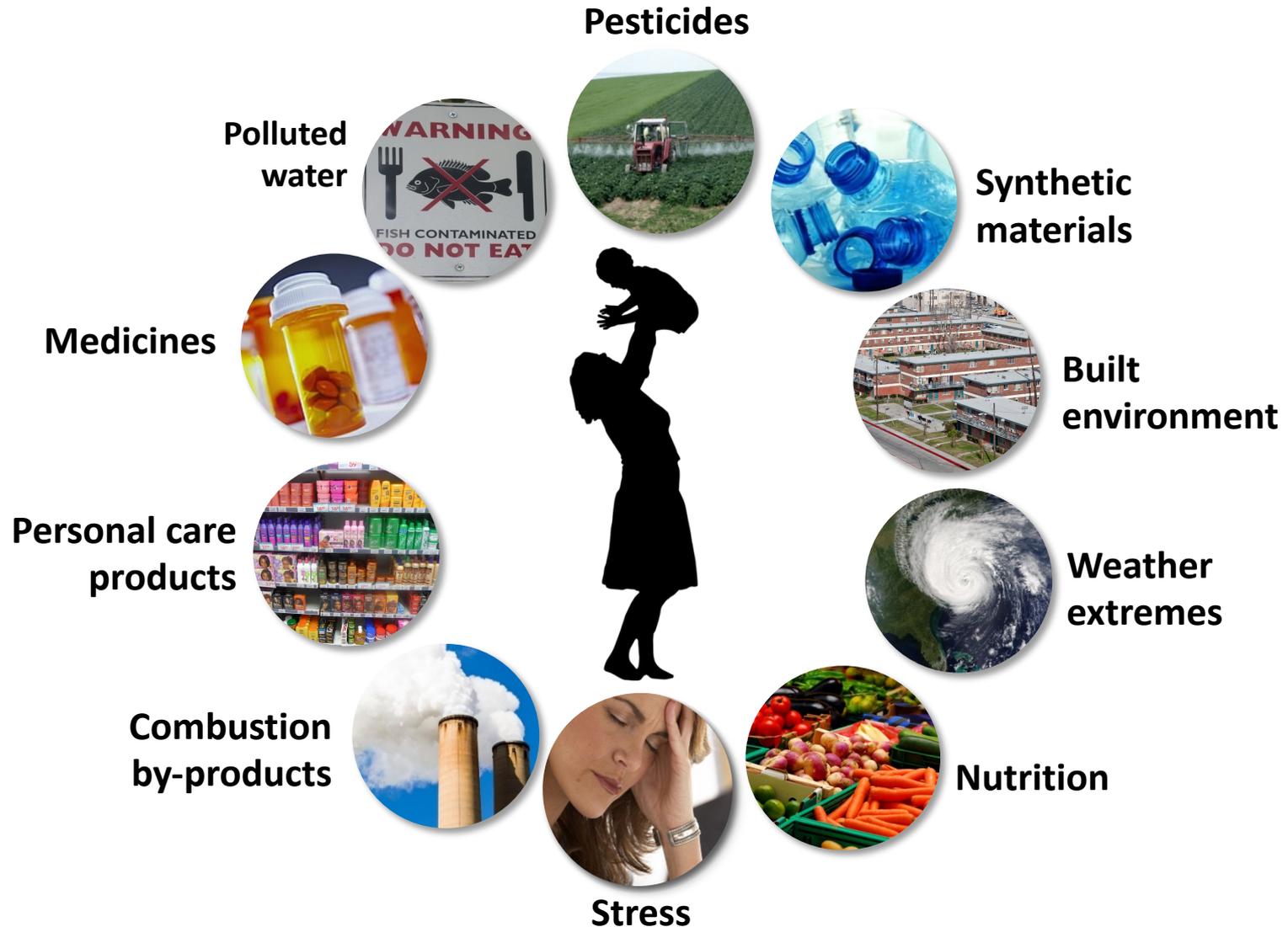


Research Priorities

- Cumulative Effects of Multiple Exposures (physical and social)
- Sustainable Approaches to Building Community Resilience
- Land Use and Health Disparities
- Built Environment (housing and transportation)
- Differential Exposures



Types of Exposures



NIMHD Centers of Excellence Program

P-50 Program Structure and Elements

Required:

Administrative Core

Research Projects Core

- 1-3 projects, each like a R01

Community Engagement and Dissemination Core

Investigator Development Core

- Pilot Program



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Required Elements

- **Administrative Core**
- **Research Projects** (1-3 Research projects each similar to an R01)
- **Community Engagement and Dissemination Core (CEDC)**
 - Evaluation Plan to measure impact of core activities
- **Investigator Development Core**
- **Multidisciplinary team** with appropriate expertise
- **Data Sharing plan**



Administrative Core

- Provide details about coordination of Center activities, integration of cross-disciplinary research, and how project objectives will be successfully achieved within the project period
- Describe establishment and purpose of partnerships, advisory or executive boards, and community activities
- Articulate roles and responsibilities of project team

Function

- Foster synergy between other cores, research projects, pilot projects program and
- Coordinate meetings among Center investigators from other centers and assist with planning of Annual Meetings



Investigator Development Core

- Designed to foster next generation of scientists in environmental health disparities research through the pilot project program
- The pilot project is expected to support the training and professional development of researchers who are member of health disparity populations
- IDC must support 3-5 pilot projects annually beginning in year 2 with a maximum \$50,000 limit for an individual pilot project, corresponding to at least \$150,000 per year in direct costs, exclusive of consortium indirect costs.
- Recruitment of early career investigators from groups underrepresented in science



Community Engagement and Dissemination Core

- CEDC Activities
 - Oversee engagement of community groups and members
 - Disseminate findings in culturally appropriate manners
- CEDC will develop strategies to
 - Strengthen environmental health literacy
 - Foster and sustain multi-directional communications
 - Build capacity for community members to participate in the full research spectrum
 - Assess the effectiveness of CEDC activities



Electronic Application

- Paper submissions will not be accepted
- Please start the application process early!
- Recommend to submit at least **three to five business days before due date**
- Check for confirmation email
- Avoiding common errors:
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/ElectronicReceipt/avoiding_errors.htm



Part II: Peer Review of Applications



Peer Review Criteria

Reviewers evaluate each applicant's potential to succeed

Overall Core (Preliminary score)

- Significance
- Investigators
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment



Administrative Core

Investigator Development Core

Community Engagement Core

Research Project Core



Preparations for Peer Review

FOA Specific Characteristics

- Program goals
- Mechanism specific characteristics
- Review Criteria: Specific to this FOA queries
- Additional Review Criteria (e.g. Human Subjects)

Administrative Review of Applications

- RFA requirements
- personnel
- expertise

Reviewer Selection

Scientific Expertise

- collective content of the applications

Attention to Conflict of Interest

Diverse representation

- gender
- demographics
- geography

Review Process

- Pre-Meeting Written Opinions
- Overall Impact
- Resume

Peer Review Criteria

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MD-20-001.html>

Overall Core

- Criteria : Each receive a score

Reviewers will provide **an overall impact score** to reflect their assessment of the likelihood **for the Center** to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the following review criteria and additional review criteria

Administrative Core; Investigator Development Core (**Pilots**); Community Engagement Core; Research Project;

Reviewers will provide **only one impact score** to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for **the Cores** to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved

Research Project Core (1-3 projects)

- Criteria : Each receive a score
- Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria in the determination of scientific merit and give a separate score for each.



Additional Review Criteria

(included in the determination of the overall score)

Human subjects

Protection of Human Subjects against research risk

Five criteria

Inclusion

Sex/gender

Individuals of all ages

Minorities

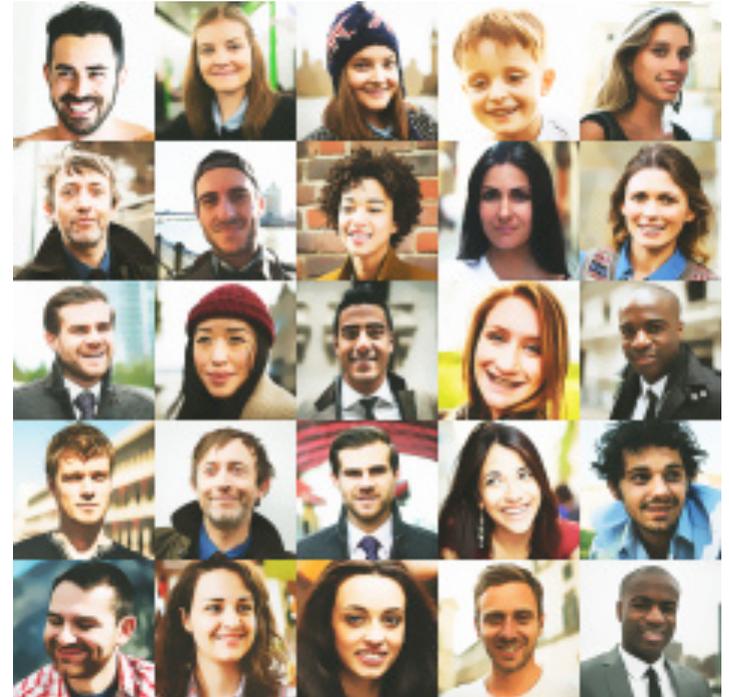
Other criteria

Vertebrate Animals

Four criteria

Biohazards

Renewals



Additional Review Considerations

(criteria not included in the determination of the overall score)

Other application information which is assessed but not included in the determination of the impact score

- Select Agents Research
- Resource Sharing Plan
- Budget and Period of Support
- **Authentication of key Biological and/or Chemical Resources**





U54 RCMI Program Peer Review Meeting

Some applications may be “streamlined” -- not discussed (ND)

- Applications may undergo a selection process in which only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific and technical merit (generally the top half of applications under review) will be discussed and assigned an overall impact score.

Final Impact Score based on average of all voting reviewers x 10

- Scores range from 10 (exceptional) to 90 (poor)

A summary statement for all applications would be available approximately 30 days after the review meeting

Do not contact the members of the review panel!



Videos on Peer Review Topics

The Center for Scientific Review has produced videos with an inside look at peer review for scientific and technical merit and with tips for preparing applications.

https://era.nih.gov/era_training/era_videos.cfm

<https://www.csr.nih.gov/csrprp/>

Resources For Using ERA Commons

<https://era.nih.gov/sites/default/files/eRA-Commons-Resources.pdf>

Problems with Submission Processing

Always contact ERA Service Desk.

<http://grants.nih.gov/support/>

In Doubt

Phone NIH

- Peer Review, Program and Grant Administration Contacts are included on the last slide of this presentation and in the RFA.

Participant Questions



QUESTIONS?

Please type questions into the Q&A box.

We will read out the questions we receive.

Two weeks after the webinar, FAQs related to the EHD Centers of Excellence program will be available online at NIMHD website



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