

Children's Environmental Health Research Translation Pilot Projects Program 2023

Grants up to \$60,000

The Southern California Children's Environmental Health Research Translation Center is pleased to announce its 2022 request for applications for 1-year pilot projects intended to promote children's environmental health (CEH) research translation. The theme of the Center is ***Urbanism, Air Pollution, Children's Health and Environmental Justice***.

Two types of awards are available:

Translation Core pilot projects evaluate novel interventions, addressing gaps in our understanding of the evidence base to improve CEH research translation into community knowledge and action. High priority will be given to (A) community-engaged projects responsive to community-identified CEH concerns and (B) projects with a solution-oriented approach that can lead to tangible benefits for environmental justice communities.

Development Core pilot projects may address other time-sensitive or emerging challenges in CEH for which preliminary data are needed.

Topics of special interest include studies on research translation that enable communities and policy makers to mitigate or adapt to the effects of climate change and to reduce exposure to:

- Transportation-related near-roadway and regional air pollution
- Emissions from "goods movement" facilities (such as sea/air ports, rail yards, warehouses)
- CEH effects of problematic land-use decisions (i.e., metal smelters, oil wells) near residential areas

Eligibility

Individuals with a full-time university faculty appointment USC are eligible to apply. Current members of the International Society for Children's Environment and Health or Fellows and graduates of the Agents of Change program with full-time faculty appointments at other universities are also eligible. Partnerships with community groups and not-for-profit or governmental agencies engaged in CEH are highly encouraged. Diversity, equity and inclusivity of academic and community partnerships are valued. Early stage investigators (within 10 years of receiving terminal degree, who have not yet received a major grant other than a career development award), will receive special consideration. **Awards up to \$12,000 in total costs are available for postdoctoral fellows with a strong faculty mentoring team.**

Key Program Dates

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Request for applications : | Aug 3, 2022 |
| Letter of Intent & Specific Aims deadline: | Sep 5, 2022 |
| Invitation to Submit Full Application: | Sep 9, 2022 |
| Full Application Deadline: | Oct 10, 2022 |
| Notification of Award: | Nov 15, 2022 |
| Anticipated Award Start Date: | Dec 1, 2022 |

For questions or to learn more contact:
Dayane Duenas Barahona (duenasga@usc.edu)

Full proposal guidelines:
<https://envhealthcenters.usc.edu/sc-ccehtr/pilots-2023>



USC
Center for Children's
Environmental Health

Children's Environmental Health Research Translation Pilot Projects Program

Grants up to \$60,000 in total costs available

The Southern California Children's Environmental Health Research Translation Center is pleased to announce its 2022 request for applications for 1-year pilot projects intended to promote children's environmental health (CEH) research translation. The theme of the Center is **Urbanism, Air Pollution, Children's Health and Environmental Justice**. Two types of awards are available:

Translation Core pilot projects evaluate novel interventions, addressing gaps in our understanding of the evidence base to improve CEH research translation into community knowledge and action. High priority will be given to (A) community-engaged projects responsive to community-identified CEH concerns and (B) projects with a solution-oriented approach that can lead to tangible benefits for environmental justice communities.

Development Core pilot projects may address other time-sensitive or emerging challenges in CEH for which preliminary data are needed.

This RFA fits broadly in the NIEHS framework for environmental health translational research with a focus on implementation of best practices and population impacts, particularly research on use of CEH science by communities and decision makers.¹ CEH research translation topics broadly within this framework are responsive to the RFA. Examples include novel approaches to partnerships with communities to collect or interpret exposure data or assess environmental health impacts in order to empower communities to engage policy makers; development or evaluation of innovative approaches to reducing environmental health disparities; development or evaluation of interventions to promote resilience to environmental disasters. The Center has unique strength and particularly welcomes proposals directed to assessment and prevention of childhood disease caused by fossil fuel combustion. Thus, topics of special interest include studies on research translation that enable communities and policy makers to mitigate or adapt to effects of climate change and to reduce exposure to:

- Transportation-related near-roadway and regional air pollution
- Emissions from "goods movement" facilities (such as sea/airports, railyards, warehouses)
- CEH effects of problematic land-use decisions (e.g., metal smelters, oil wells) near residential areas

The Center values research on innovative approaches for multidirectional, action-oriented engagement of academia, policymakers, and communities that promote the power of communities to change their neighborhoods and to influence the development of policy based on the best science available. Multidisciplinary proposals are encouraged, including disciplines not frequently engaged in environmental health, from social science and creative arts, policy and urban design, sociology, dramatic arts, education, network analysis and implementation science. An important goal of the program is to provide investigators with an opportunity to collect preliminary data to establish utility of methods or feasibility of larger-scale CEH research translation projects leading to community-based participatory research or research to action awards (especially from NIEHS).

Eligibility

Individuals with a full-time university faculty appointment USC are eligible to apply. Current members of the International Society for Children's Environment and Health or Fellows and graduates of the Agents of Change program with full-time faculty appointments at other universities are also eligible. Partnerships with community groups and not-for-profit or governmental agencies engaged in CEH are highly encouraged. Diversity, equity and inclusivity of academic and community partnerships are valued. Early stage investigators (within 10 years of receiving terminal degree, who have not yet received a major grant other than a career development award), will receive special

¹ Pettibone KG, Environ Health Perspect 2018;126:074501.

consideration. **Awards up to \$12,000 in total costs are available for postdoctoral fellows with a strong faculty mentoring team.**

Key Program Dates

Request for Applications – August 3, 2022

Letter of Intent & Specific Aims Deadline – September 5, 2022, at 5pm U.S. Pacific Time

Invitation to Submit Full Application – September 9, 2022

Full Application Deadline – October 10, 2022, at 5pm PT

Notification of Award – November 15, 2022

Anticipated Award Start Date – December 1, 2022

For questions or more information, please contact Dayane Duenas Barahona (duenasga@usc.edu)

Non-Binding Letter of Intent & Specific Aims

Prospective applicants are asked to submit a non-binding Letter of Intent not to exceed one page. The letter should include the project title, a brief summary of project objectives or aims, and identify the key participating investigators and partnerships. **All proposed projects should have a clear and identifiable children's environmental health emphasis.** Please submit Letter of Intent and Specific Aims as one PDF file [here](#) by the deadline, **September 5, 2022**, at 5pm Pacific Time.

Successful Letter of Intent applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal for up to \$60,000 (\$12,000 for postdoctoral applicants). Instructions for full proposal submission can be found [here](#). Please submit full applications to the link provided in invitation to submit as a single PDF by the application deadline, **October 10, 2022** at 5pm Pacific Time.

Full Application Instructions

Invited full applications should include the following, in this order:

1. **Cover Sheet** – Including the full title of the project; name, contact information, institution, and department of the Principal Investigator (PI); and the name, institution, and department of any co-investigators or faculty sponsors.
2. **Project Abstract (300 words or less)** – A brief summary of the project.
3. **Specific Aims (1 page)** – Concise goals of the proposed research and a summary of expected outcomes, including specific objectives.
4. **Research Strategy (4 pages MAXIMUM, not including references)**
 - i. **Significance** – Describe the importance of the problem that the project addresses and explain how the project will improve knowledge and practice of CEH research translation and promote engagement of communities and decision makers in science-based action or policy, if the proposed aims are achieved.
 - ii. **Innovation** – Describe how the proposed research seeks to shift translational practice paradigms and how any methodologies or theoretical concepts that are being developed or used in the project may have an advantage over existing practices.
 - iii. **Approach** – Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the project goals, including how data will be collected. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks of success.
5. **Grant Potential (1 page or less)** – Clear description of how a successful pilot project and/or expansion of the project will lead to a NIH, NSF, NEA, foundation, or similar grant application (in the U.S.) or equivalent elsewhere.

6. **Project Timeline (1 page or less)** – A proposed timeline of study performance should be included, identifying specific tasks and milestones in project progress for the 12-month period of performance.
7. **Budget** – A budget table of personnel, equipment, supplies, travel, and other estimated costs to perform the proposed project. Additional direct costs to the award resulting from indirect costs associated with any subcontract to other universities must be included within the \$60,000 or \$12,000 (for postdoctoral fellows).
8. **Budget Justification** – A detailed explanation and justification of the funding request.

Non-allowable expenses:

- i. Salaries for Associate and Full Professors
 - ii. Tuition for graduate students
9. **Biosketches** – For the PI, co-investigators and faculty sponsors a biosketch is required. A NIH format (5-page limit per investigator) is preferred (described on the [NIH website](#)). For any collaborating community members/orgs, a short bio should be included as well.

10. Required by NIH if proposal includes foreign component (see Appendix II for description of foreign component):

- a. Brief description of research activities at foreign site(s):
- b. Complete institution address
- c. Email, and phone numbers of contact PI at foreign site(s):
- d. Amount of funds going to each foreign site: center staff available to assist
- e. Are human or animal subjects involved at the foreign site(s)?
- f. Institutional Federal Wide Assurance Number, IRB, or IEC approval for work performed at foreign site(s):
- g. Will collaborations with investigators at the foreign site(s) result in co-authorship with U.S. investigators?

11. Projects selected for funding that involve human subjects will have to meet NIH and institutional requirements for human subjects research.

Reporting Requirements

The anticipated period of funded project performance will be December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2023. IRB/IACUC approval letters must be received as soon as possible to avoid any delays in funding. Funded projects will be expected to submit initial IRB applications immediately following the notice of award. Funded projects which include a foreign component will be required to undergo administrative review by NIEHS (see Appendix I for description of foreign component and additional application requirements).

In addition, all pilot project grantees are required to submit an **Annual Progress Report each Fall**. The progress report will contain updates on the project, publications directly related to findings from the project, and grants directly associated with project results. Grantees may be asked to present a poster or short oral presentation on pilot progress at an SC-CCEHTR workshop dedicated to pilot project grantees.

All publications resulting from pilot funding must include the following acknowledgement:

"This work was supported by the Southern California Center for Children's Environmental Health Translational Research, NIEHS grant# P2CES033433 and the Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center, NIEHS grant #P30ES007048."

Application Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by a multidisciplinary panel of scientists.

The major review criteria are:

1. Relevance and potential to identify solutions to CEH problems through translational research;
2. Scientific quality, approach and significance;
3. Novelty and innovation of ideas;
4. Stimulation of interdisciplinary activity, particularly with community organization;
5. Likelihood of leading to R01 or other external funding

Awardees will be selected following the review; Notification of award earliest availability of funds will be late November, 2022, pending (for studies involving human subjects) Institutional Review Board approval.

For questions or more information, please contact:

Dayane Duenas Barahona, duenasga@usc.edu

APPENDIX

I. Instructions for projects involving foreign component

A. Definition of Foreign Component

"Foreign component" is defined as significant scientific activity that was performed outside of the United States, either by the grantee or by a researcher employed by a foreign organization, **whether or not** grant funds were expended. The following grant-related activities are significant and must be reported:

- involvement of human subjects or research with live vertebrate animals;
- extensive foreign travel by awardee project staff to collect data, or conduct surveys or sampling activities; or
- any awardee activity that may have an impact on U.S. foreign policy.

Examples of other award-related activities that may be significant are:

- collaborations with investigators at a foreign site anticipated to result in co-authorship;
- use of facilities or instrumentation at a foreign site; or
- receipt of financial support or resources from a foreign entity.