



# **Center for Early Lifestage Vulnerabilities to Environmental Stressors**

## **Informational Webinar for Applicants**



**EPA STAR RFA**

**September 15, 2020**

- Review application Information for the EPA STAR RFA:  
    “Center for Early Lifestage Vulnerabilities to  
    Environmental Stressors”
- Provide guidance for eligibility, submission, technical aspects of application process
- Answer questions about the application process



## Webinar Ground Rules

- Please hold your questions until all EPA presentations have been made.
- You may type your questions in the comments box. 
- No specific research project or idea can be discussed but, clarifying questions regarding what is written in the RFA announcement may be answered.
- These slides will be provided after the webinar.
- Please keep yourself muted during the presentation. 



## Agency Contacts

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- **Eligibility Contact:** Ron Josephson, Eligibility & Peer Review Officer ([josephson.ron@epa.gov](mailto:josephson.ron@epa.gov)); phone: 202-564-7823
- **Electronic Submissions:** Debra M. Jones, Administrative Officer ([jones.debram@epa.gov](mailto:jones.debram@epa.gov)); phone: 202-564-7839





## RFA & Award Information

- RFA will close on November 12, 2020 at 11:59:59 pm Eastern Time
- Estimated Number of Awards: 1
- Anticipated Funding Amount: \$1.9M total for 4 years.
- Cost sharing is not needed or allowed
- Proposed budget must not exceed \$1.9M.

**Read the RFA very carefully, all necessary information is provided**



# Eligibility Information

## Eligible to Apply:

Public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations

Public and private institutions of higher education

Hospitals located in the U.S

State and local governments

Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments

Domestic Research that will benefit the US

Foreign collaborators, data collection or use are OK

- International Budget needs to be justified, reviewed, and approved



# Application Materials

- To apply under this solicitation, use the application package available at **Grants.gov**
- For further submission information see: **RFA Section IV.F. “Submission Instructions and other Submission Requirements”**
- Note: All necessary forms are included in the electronic application package, with the exception of the current and pending support form, available at: **Research Funding Opportunities: How to Apply and Required Forms**

**Make sure to include the current and pending support form in your Grants.gov submission**

## Main Research Area:

Early lifestage (prenatal, perinatal) vulnerabilities from exposures to environmental chemical stressors which will determine health during early childhood development.



- Must have chemical(s) exposure(s) and health outcome(s), with potentially important modifying factor(s) in early childhood development.
- Key Paragraph of the RFA:
  - “Prenatal and early life exposures to pollutants such as methyl mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and lead have shown a relationship to adverse cognitive and behavioral outcomes, demonstrating links to ADHD, reduced IQ, lessened self-regulatory capacities, anxiety, depression, attention problems, lower memory function, or structural changes to the brain.”



Applications must have 2 research projects addressing any combination of 7 sub-topics, with at least 2 sub-topics addressed in an application.

### Sub-topics:

- 1) Characterize cumulative prenatal and/or perinatal exposures to chemicals and potential consequential age-group-specific health effects.
- 2) Identify and explain the relationship between perinatal environmental chemical exposures and adverse children's health outcomes.
- 3) Characterize the inter-relationships between chemical and non-chemical environmental stressors with respect to physiological responses, compensatory responses, and resultant health effects.

### Sub-topics:

- 4) Characterize the dynamic interactions between children's developing biology, behavior, perinatal environmental chemical exposures, and outcomes.
- 5) Identify the highest priority non-chemical environmental stressors and exposures to chemicals for women prior to and/or during pregnancy and how those exposures may impact cumulative risk for adverse birth outcomes (e.g., live births, full-term births, low birth weight, teratology).
- 6) Characterize and explain how changes in chemical exposures under an extreme event such as a pandemic or natural disaster may impact prenatal and early children's health.
- 7) Identify and explain the relationship between perinatal environmental chemical exposures and other factors (socio, cultural, and environmental) that would impact risk assessment.



## Other Information

Please refer to the following RFA sections for additional information:

### IV. Application And Submission Information

- Required application package materials including:
  - EPA Human Subjects Research Statement (HSRS)
  - Scientific Data Management Plan (SDMP)

### V. Application Review Information

- Peer Review Criteria
- Relevancy Review Criteria

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**Thank you!**