





Interventions and Communication Strategies to Reduce Health Risks of Wildland Fire Smoke Exposures

Informational Webinar for Applicants

EPA STAR RFA

October 29, 2020

- Review application information in the EPA STAR RFA:
Interventions and Communication Strategies to Reduce Health Risks of Wildland Fire Smoke Exposures
- Provide guidelines for eligibility, submission, and technical aspects of application process
- Answer questions about the application process

- Please keep yourself muted during the presentation. 
- Questions will be addressed after the presentation.
- You may type your questions in the comment 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 posted online after the webinar.



Agency Contacts

- **Technical Contact:** Serena Chung, Project Officer (chung.serena@epa.gov); phone: 202-564-5059 
- **Eligibility Contact:** Ron Josephson, Eligibility & Peer Review Officer (josephson.ron@epa.gov); phone: 202-564-7823
- **Electronic Submissions:** Debra M. Jones, Administrative Officer (jones.debram@epa.gov); phone: 202-564-7839





RFA & Award Information

- RFA will close on December 15, 2020 at 11:59:59 pm Eastern Time
- Estimated Number of Awards: 9 (5 regular, 4 earlier career)
- Anticipated Funding Amount: \$7.2M total for all awards.
- Potential Funding per Award and Duration:
Up to a total of **\$1,000,000 for a regular award** and up to a total of **\$550,000 for an early career award**, including direct and indirect costs, with a maximum duration of 3 years

Read the RFA very carefully. All necessary information is provided



Specific Areas of Interest/ Expected Outputs and Outcomes

Research Areas:

- 1. Sustainable Interventions to Reduce Exposures and Associated Health Risks from Wildland Fire Smoke**
- 2. Health Risk Communication Strategies to Inform Actions**

Applications may respond to portions or all of one research area in detail or integrate across the two research areas.



Specific Areas of Interest/ Expected Outputs and Outcomes (2)

Research Area 1 - Sustainable Interventions to Reduce Exposures and Associated Health Risks from Wildland Fire Smoke

Research Area 1 seeks applications that assess the effectiveness of various types of individual and community-level interventions in reducing exposures and associated health risks of wildland fire smoke exposure. Central to reducing exposures and health risks are the efficacies of intervention approaches and how they are used in practice. Applications should incorporate behavioral, technical and practical aspects of interventions into the research design in addressing the following topics.



Specific Areas of Interest/ Expected Outputs and Outcomes (3)

For Research Area 1, applications may address any of the following topics:

- a. What mix of individual and community-level interventions are most effective in reducing exposure and associated health risks? How do underlying social, cultural, economic, and regional or geographic factors impact the effectiveness of these interventions?

Interventions considered may include but are not limited to messaging, filtration, evacuation, cleaner air centers, access to localized monitoring and forecasting, aspects related to use of respirators and face coverings, etc.



Specific Areas of Interest/ Expected Outputs and Outcomes (4)

- b. How effective are air cleaning technologies at reducing exposure and associated health risks related to wildland fire smoke exposure and what behavioral, technical, and practical aspects influence their effectiveness?

Applications may consider the effectiveness and efficacy under various scenarios, such as:

- i. How does the effectiveness vary by particle concentration range or by durations of exposures?
 - ii. What is the effectiveness of air cleaning technologies in reducing exposure to the gas-phase component of smoke?
- c. How is the effectiveness of air cleaning technologies influenced by building characteristics, building function, and behaviors and decisions of occupants and/or building managers?



Specific Areas of Interest/ Expected Outputs and Outcomes (5)

Research Area 2 - Health Risk Communication Strategies to Inform Actions

Research Area 2 seeks applications that develop and assess the effectiveness of health risk communication strategies in supporting actions to reduce wildland fire smoke exposure. Applicants are strongly encouraged to propose research with explicit consideration of populations at-risk of health effects attributed to wildland fire smoke exposure, harder-to-reach populations, or both. Harder-to-reach populations can be broadly defined as groups or individuals who may not receive communications delivered by the traditional communication channels, such as rural populations with limited internet access and limited access to traditional media such as local papers, local radio, and local television; homeless and transient populations, non-English speakers, homebound individuals, etc.



Specific Areas of Interest/ Expected Outputs and Outcomes (6)

For Research Area 2, applications may address any of the following topics:

- a. What health risk communication strategies are most effective in supporting individuals to take informed actions that reduce their exposure to wildland fire smoke? Strategies may include but are not limited to communication and outreach campaign design, message content, delivery mechanisms, etc.
- b. How can wildland fire smoke communication among organizations, systems, and communities improve outcomes that may support individuals taking informed actions to reduce exposures? What factors influence the effectiveness of those communications for the desired outcomes, including increased issue awareness among stakeholder organizations or improvements in community readiness for wildland fire smoke events?



Eligibility Information

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 U.S.

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: **Section IV.F. “Submission Instruction and other Submission Requirements”**
- All necessary forms are included in the electronic application package, except for the current and pending support form, are available at:
<https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/research-funding-opportunities-how-apply-and-required-forms>

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



Please refer to the following RFA sections for additional information

IV. Application and Submission Information

- Required application materials including
 - Human Subject Research Statement (HSRS)
 - Scientific Data Management Plan (SDMP)

V. Application Review Information

- Peer Review Criteria
- Relevancy Review Criteria

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- If interested in joining the **Peer Review Panel**, rather than applying, please contact Aaron Wishnuff (wishnuff.aaron@epa.gov); phone: 202-564-2055

Thank you!