

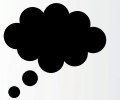


**Center for Early Lifestage Vulnerabilities to  
Environmental Stressors - Cumulative Health  
Impacts for Children in Underserved Rural  
Agricultural Communities in the United States  
Informational Webinar for Applicants**



**EPA STAR RFA**


**December 6, 2022**

- 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. 

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- **Electronic Submissions:** [electronic-grant-submissions@epa.gov](mailto:electronic-grant-submissions@epa.gov)
- **Peer Review Officer:** Chris Rea, Science Review Officer,  
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## RFA & Award Information

- RFA will close on January 11, 2023 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**

## Main Research Area:

Early lifestage (prenatal, perinatal) vulnerabilities from exposures to environmental chemical and non-chemical stressors which will determine health during the lifetime in underserved rural agricultural communities.



- Must have chemical(s) and non-chemical exposure(s) and health outcome(s), with potentially important modifying factor(s) in early childhood development.
- Key Paragraph of the RFA:
  - **“The research area of interest focuses on the cumulative health impacts of early lifestage (prenatal and childhood up to adolescence) exposures to pollutants in conjunction with other relevant nonchemical stressors among those living in underserved, rural agricultural communities in the United States.”**

Applications must have 2 research projects addressing the 2 sub-topics stated in the RFA.

### Sub-topics:

- 1) Characterize cumulative health impacts of early lifestage (prenatal and childhood including adolescence) exposure to pollutants in underserved, rural agricultural communities. The research should address specific lifestage, exposure pathways (routes), relevant non-chemical stressors, and consequential health outcomes. In addition, the research should identify and explain the known and suspected relationships between chemical exposures and other factors (social, cultural, and environmental) that would significantly influence cumulative health impacts.
- 2) Propose a cumulative impact assessment approach or method that will lead to potentially effective interventions or decisions to reduce exposures and mitigate the adverse health outcomes from the chemical and non-chemical stressors being investigated for early lifestages (prenatal and childhood up to adolescence) in underserved, rural agricultural communities in the United States.



# Expected Outputs/Outcomes

- **The expected outputs** from this research will be novel and comprehensive **scientific information, publications, data, and knowledge about how exposures to multiple pollutants and other environmental stressors in early lifestages are quantitatively and/or qualitatively linked to specific health outcomes.** Research results will also include important information on nonchemical environmental stressors and modifying factors that significantly affect vulnerability to both exposure and health effects among children in underserved, rural agricultural communities in the United States. **The desired outputs should result in more accurate cumulative health impact assessments leading to more effective, practical, and efficient reduction, mitigation, and prevention measures.**
- **The expected outcomes** include **reductions in adverse impacts to children's health** and well-being from exposure to chemical and non-chemical environmental stressors; improved preventive policy and programs to improve the health and well-being of pregnant women, infants, and children; and healthier early childhood development void of adverse effects. The proposed research should **improve decision-making** to protect children resulting in **healthier early childhood development and reduced risk of adverse effects across all lifestages.** **Reduction in environmental health disparities** for children living in underserved, rural agricultural communities is a significant desired outcome.





# 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

Foreign collaborators, data collection or use are OK

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



## Eligibility Information (2)

- Entities that are **NOT** eligible
  - Profit-making companies
  - Foreign governments
  - International organizations
  - Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs)
  - Federal agencies
- Note that eligible entities can partner with some ineligible entities under EPA's Subaward Policy, which can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/grants/grants-policyissuance-gpi-16-01-epa-subaward-policy-epa-assistanceagreement-recipients>.
- For profit companies may be consultants
  - For profit companies are NOT eligible and may NOT be subawardees
  - Consultants are not to be considered key personnel on a grant application
  - Contracts/Consultants are subject to competitive procurement requirements (see Section IV.C.5.iv.f)



## Eligibility Information (3)

- Applications must be submitted via Grants.gov
  - If you cannot access Grants.gov, see <https://www.epa.gov/grants/exceptions-grantsgov-submission-requirement>.
  - You must have SAM.gov registration ACTIVE in order to apply via Grants.gov.
- Applications that exceed federal funding or performance period time limits will not be reviewed.
  - Start date does not really matter, as long as period of performance is within four years.
  - Research usually starts six to nine months after the close of the RFA.
- Applications which do not include a center description, the required two individual research project plan descriptions, an Administrative Core, and a Translation Core will be deemed ineligible. Applications with less than two or more than two individual research project plan descriptions will also be deemed ineligible.
- Applications from ineligible organizations, or that are somehow not substantially compliant, will not be reviewed.
- Organizations and PIs may submit more than one application, as long as they are substantially different.



# 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**



# Electronic Submissions

- Details are provided in Section IV.F. “Submission Instructions and Other Submission Requirements.”
- If you have trouble with Grants.gov, perform the following steps **before** the close of the RFA (Section IV.F.5.):
  - Contact Grants.gov Support Center before the application deadline date.
  - Document the Grants.gov ticket/case number.
  - Send an email with the FON (EPA-G2023-STAR-C1) in the subject line to [electronic-grant-submissions@epa.gov](mailto:electronic-grant-submissions@epa.gov) before the application deadline time and date and must include the following:
    - i. Grants.gov ticket/case number(s)
    - ii. Description of the issue
    - iii. The entire application package in PDF format.
- You may resubmit an application before the deadline, but changes are not permitted after an RFA closes. If we see duplicates of the same application, we will process the most recent one.
- If you are experiencing a natural disaster and cannot submit on time, please contact us immediately.
- Letters of support or intent from EPA employees are prohibited, and we will remove such letters if we find them.

**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



# Application Review Information

- Peer Review Criteria (see Section V.A)
  1. Research Proposal
  2. Responsiveness
  3. Overall Center
  4. Administrative Core
  5. Translation Core
  6. Resources and Cost Controls
- Relevancy Review Criteria (see Section V.B)
  1. The degree to which the proposed science/research is relevant to EPA's priorities as described in this solicitation and Goal 2: Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights, Objective 2.1: Promote Environmental Justice and Civil Rights at the Federal, Tribal, State, and Local Levels, of EPA's [FY2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#).
  2. The degree to which results (i.e., outputs/outcomes) of the research have broad application or affect large segments of society.
  3. The degree to which the research is designed to produce data and methods that can immediately and/or with little to no translation be utilized by the public, states, and tribes to better assess or manage environmental problems.
- See **Section V** for more detail on the above criteria and other review components

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**Thank you!**