

## U.S. EPA STAR Information Webinar: Contaminated Sites, Extreme Weather Events, and Vulnerable Communities – Research to Build Resilience

### Questions and Answers

1. What does “No Superfund Research (CERCLA)” mean? The “sites” can’t be Superfund sites? Research relevant to CERCLA is very broad... so exclude almost anything..

A: It simply means that the STAR RFA is not applicable to the research project under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), known also as Superfund. So, Superfund site clean-up or related research projects will not be considered under this RFA.

2. What about other NIEHS funding, eg. P30 Core Center funding leveraged activities?

A: As long as a proposed research under this RFA does not address Superfund site clean-up or related research, it would be fine to leverage research findings or results from other funded research projects.

3. Do you have to work with a specific site, or it it more general approach

A: Yes, the RFA requires to name specific “contaminated” or “potentially contaminated” sites whose integrity would be compromised by extreme events or changing environmental conditions.

4. Budget Q, \$800K total budget for the entire three years or per year?

A: The total amount of 800K one time funding covers the entire 3-year project period.

5. In the RFP under research question 1 it says "describe the specific contaminants and the media and exposure routes that threaten the health..." are you expecting complex fate and transport modeling of contaminants (it's not specifically stated in RFP)?

A: Depending on the context of what health outcomes or risks your project chooses to address, but, in general detailed mechanisms of “fate and transport” would not be required. However, it would be necessary, if the project’s hypothesis depends on certain specific chemical transformations, of course. So, it is case by case, depending on the nature of investigation.

6. If we wish to budget to support the participation of community groups in the CENR, how should we pay them if contractors must go through a competitive bidding process? As sub-awardees?

A: This is a budget category question. In general, you will have time to adjust any incorrectly placed budget categories if/when your project gets selected for funding. In general, the community participation fees or costs would be under "Other Direct Costs", I believe. But, depending on the nature of community involvement, of course, it could be a sub-award or contract. A sub-award is also under "Other Direct Costs", but a contract is under a different budget category, "Contractual."

7. Could we spend any money on sampling, field work and lab work?

A: If any field sampling or lab analysis would be important components of a research project, yes, of course, the related costs would be allowed under the project budget.

8. Do you consider combined sewer outfalls to be contaminated sites?

A: If certain site would be particularly susceptible or vulnerable to such contamination, yes, it would be.

9. Are you looking to fund a range of extreme weather conditions (e.g., coastal flooding vs. wildfires) and/or a range of community types (urban to rural)? Would a community score higher if the threats are higher?

A: The funding selection will depend on the peer review and relevancy review outcomes and scores, but, other than that, there is no pre-set determined extreme event or community type that we are particularly looking to fund.