

# Center for Early Life Stage Vulnerabilities to Environmental Stressors

## Informational Webinar Question and Answers

September 15, 2020

**Request For Application (RFA):** <https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/center-early-lifestage-vulnerabilities-environmental-stressors>

**Open/Close Date:** Aug. 27, 2020 – Nov. 12, 2020

### **Question and Answers Session**

**Question:** Will investigating PFAS exposure be considered responsive to the RFA?

**Answer: Yes.**

**Question:** Can you confirm whether the RFA is limited to cognitive-behavioral outcomes?

**Answer: Yes, the scope of the research interests is limited to cognitive-behavioral health outcomes.**

**Question:** Are preclinical projects permitted since there is a target for causal pathways?

**Answer: Preclinical research may be used as a part of the center projects, but not as a major project. This RFA is for scientific research and is not intended for clinical studies.**

**Question:** Can the research projects be conducted in an international setting?

**Answer: Yes, but the center grant must be awarded to a U.S. institution that will also manage the center projects.**

**Question:** Are intervention research designs ok for this RFA?

**Answer: No. Intervention studies are not part of this RFA.**

**Question:** Can weight be the primary outcome of the research?

**Answer: Obesity is a health outcome that is within the scope of this RFA.**

**Question:** Could the Center be part of an existing Center in order to use existing administrative and translational structures?

**Answer: No.**

**Question:** Is exposure to electronic cigarette aerosols and its potential health effects eligible for this RFA?

**Answer: Yes.**

**Question:** Are International students eligible to apply?

**Answer: Please see Section III.A. of the RFA. The RFA is open to institutions based in the U.S., not individuals. This is not a fellowship for graduate students. A grantee institution may use funding for graduate students who work on research. For international students, as long as the student is legally present in the U.S. and affiliated with the university, the university may fund the students.**

**Question:** Are other health outcomes like cancer responsive to this RFA?

**Answer: No.**

**Question:** Can studies be secondary analysis of completed trials?

**Answer:** No.

**Question:** Are studies conducted in animal models responsive to this RFA?

**Answer:** Animal research or models can be a part of the center research projects as long as the scientific results are linked to children's early developmental health outcome(s).

**Question:** How much preliminary data is expected in this RFA; like the expectation of NIH R01 or R21?

**Answer:** There is no required preliminary data., but the RFA strongly encourages the use of as many existing scientific datasets as possible to develop and construct strong center projects.

**Question:** Does the 1.9 million funding include indirect costs (IDC)?

**Answer:** Yes. The total budget of \$1.9 million is inclusive of every budget item.

**Question:** Would research conducted on a molecular level in animal models be responsive to this RFA?

Would chemicals originated from tobacco be responsive to this RFA?

**Answer:** Molecular level animal research or models can be a part of the center projects as long as it can be successfully linked to children's early developmental health outcome(s).

**Question:** Do NIH salary caps apply or is this type of cost-sharing not allowed?

**Answer:** There is no salary cap. Cost sharing is not allowed.

**Question:** Do all 4 projects proposed have to be focused on the same toxicant? Can there be a mixture of tobacco and PBDEs?

**Answer:** Please take note that each center must have exactly 2 projects. Any other project number (1, 3, or 4, etc.) will be rejected so please remember this. Exposure to chemical mixtures is an acceptable research focus.

**Question:** Do projects need to address exposure in the pre and postnatal period, or is addressing exposure during one period of development ok if justified?

**Answer:** Addressing exposure in either one or both periods are fine.