



Collaborative Center in Children's Environmental Health Research and Translation

PILOT PROJECT PROGRAM REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Request for Applications (RFA)

NYU Langone Collaborative Center in Children's Environmental Health Research and Translation (CEHRT) is seeking applications for Year 4 of its pilot project program, intended to initiate innovative developmental and translational research to address children's environmental health (CEH) issues.

NIEHS has published a [Translational Research Framework](#) that articulates trajectories through which research can be translated into action. The framework provides an important vision and roadmap to guide environmental health research from new ideas through translation into practice or policy by evaluating progress across five rings of research.

This CEHRT Pilot Award Program aims to support researchers in conducting either **early-stage developmental** research focused on CEH or **activities that move research through translational phases**.

Pilot project applicants must apply for one of two established categories of research, with the following **goals**:

1. **Development Core Pilot Projects** aim to support new, emerging or time-sensitive research on children's environmental health research. Potential Development Pilot Projects can include but are not limited to:
 - a. testing novel emerging concepts, tools, or approaches,
 - b. generating preliminary findings for basic and clinical research,
 - c. supporting intervention development (such as formative research to design interventions or needs assessments),
 - d. performing validation studies, and/or
 - e. leveraging existing studies or datasets to understand burden of emerging exposures.
2. **Translation Core Pilot Projects** will test, implement, or adapt evidence-based interventions in new populations or new settings that extend internal validity or generalizability, or evaluate new CEH research translational products (curriculum, tools, methods, practices, etc.) for wider communities.

Program Background

NYU CEHRT Pilot Project Program, one of six such centers around the country, aims to improve and protect children's health by facilitating pilot projects to develop, test, and adapt new scientific questions and public health interventions. The Center's overarching goal is to support and translate CEH research findings to relevant stakeholders in the community, academia, and practice. The national collaborative centers program will serve as a national research resource to better support public health and medical response to emerging environmental exposures affecting children's health.

(1) Development Core Awards:

\$65,000 is available in pilot awards from which we anticipate approximately 5 to 6 awardees each year, ranging from \$10,000 - \$20,000 each, depending on their proposal needs. Pilot projects will be supported through a hybrid model of availability of direct resources and voucher for the purchase of services, such as a research coordinator, senior data analyst and biostatistical support.

(2) Translation Core Awards:

\$200,000 is allocated with the intention of awarding 5 proposals with \$40,000 for each awardee. Funding is limited to a 12-month period for a maximum award of \$40,000 in direct costs. No extensions or carry-over allowed, but investigators may be eligible to apply again for a second year of supplemental translation funding.

Funding Eligibility

Faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and doctoral-level research scientists, as well as non-academic partners in non-governmental organizations working in the area of children's environmental health or in related fields with application to children's environmental health are eligible. Applications are particularly encouraged from early-stage investigators. Investigators may only submit one application as a principal investigator but may be listed on more than one proposal. While funding is open to junior scientists at any institution, funding does not cover indirect costs and is limited to a 12-month period. Awardees are expected to join periodic CEHRT interest groups. NYU CEHRT reserves the right to suggest funding collaborations between applicants when alignment is clear.

For Current Awardees Who Have Previously Received Funding From this Grant

For this application cycle, we would like to extend the possibility of applying for continued funding to current awardees. Current awardees that apply must articulate how proposed activities build upon and advance translation of your current work. For proposals of equal quality and significance, we will give priority to new awardee applicants. If those who previously indicated interest in reviewing proposals during this cycle would like to instead submit a full proposal for this opportunity, they will be exempt from reviewing. A full proposal would be due on Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024; for current awardees, an LOI is not required. Our mentors are happy to discuss potential proposals with you.

Application Process

1. Applicants submit a 1-page Letter of Intent (LOI) by **Thursday, September 12th, 2024**.
2. Applicants selected to proceed into the next stage will be notified of this decision by **Friday, September 20th, 2024**.
3. Applicants will be invited to submit a 3-page proposal due **Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024** containing additional information to that already included in the LOI.

LOI should be one page, single-spaced, 11 point Arial font and submitted as a PDF. Letters should include:

1. Project Aims
2. Brief description of approach
3. Investigation team

Full 3-page proposals should be single-spaced, 11 point Arial font, 1-inch margins and submitted as a PDF.

Proposals should include:

1. Project aims
2. Background and significance of this project to children's environmental health
3. [Alignment with NIEHS Research Translation Framework](#) and potential translation impact
4. Methods (hypothesis, research design, target population, measures, analytic plan)
5. Partnerships and, if an early-stage investigator, mentorship plan
6. Future plans (e.g., how this pilot project might be developed into an extramural grant proposal)

The proposal should be accompanied by a budget following the template, which includes a brief budget justification. We are looking for high quality pilot projects that have potential for translational impact and/or lead to continued investigation. A successful pilot project proposal will include the following criteria:

- Significance and Innovation
- Aligns with NYU CEHRT priority areas (endocrine disrupting chemicals, climate change and health)
- Approach and Design
- Alignment with the goals of the Development Core of Translation Core Awards (listed above)
- Potential for future funding
- Strength of partnerships, interdisciplinarity, and, if early-stage investigator, mentorship plan

Stakeholder Collaboration

Our center partners with internationally and nationally based environment-related organizations working in the field of endocrine disrupting chemicals and climate change. We are happy to pair applicants with stakeholders based on their research priorities. Please refer to our list of stakeholders below and feel free to contact the NYU CEHRT team for more details.

NYU CEHRT Stakeholders
Children's Environmental Health Network
Defend Our Health
Endocrine Society
Food Packaging Forum
Health Care Without Harm
Healthy Environment and Endocrine Disruptor Strategies (HEEDS)
International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)
International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)
Safer States
Global Alliance of Chronic Diseases

Review Process

Letters are reviewed by the center leadership's review committee, which includes colleagues from the national CEHRT network. Selected applicants are then asked to submit a full application, including a research proposal.

The submitted research proposal is reviewed by one expert within NYU or NYU Langone and two external reviewers. Reviewers follow NIH grant review guidelines to evaluate and score the proposals. In addition, reviewers will comment on the potential of applications to obtain future extramural funding.

Upon receipt of the reviewers' critiques, an ad hoc committee consisting of center leadership discusses the proposals in an NIH study section-like meeting and makes funding decisions. Applicants will be notified of decisions by **Mid November**.

Interested candidates should submit their Letter of Intent through the REDCap application here:

<https://redcap.link/nyucehrt2025>

Contact

Please reach out to nyucehrt@nyulangone.org with any questions about the application process or programs.

To view a list of funded pilot projects please visit our website: <https://med.nyu.edu/centers-programs/investigation-environmental-hazards/cehrt-pilot-project-program/funded-projects>