

UC DAVIS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER (EHSC) REQUEST FOR PILOT PROJECT APPLICATIONS

The NIEHS-funded UC Davis EHSC invites applications for pilot projects to be conducted in 2023-2024. Funding range is \$20,000 to \$60,000 – see below for details. The Pilot Program emphasizes research that is aligned with either one or both of the following:

- [EHSC Pilot Program Priority Areas \(see below\)](#), which are developed by EHSC leadership based on current NIEHS funding priorities and our UCD EHSC priorities.
- [EHSC Community Research Priorities \(click on the link\)](#), which are developed each year in collaboration with our Community Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

UC Davis Environmental Health Sciences Center (UCD EHSC) is one of 25 Core Centers funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). Our goals are to advance understanding of the influence of environmental exposures on human health, to translate results into policies and practices that improve population health; to promote community-engaged research, and to support early career investigators and investigators new to environmental health science. Please check our website to learn more about our members across UC Davis campuses, schools, and colleges.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The Pilot Project Program supports one- or two-year projects to provide:

- Preliminary data for extramural grant submissions of environmental health sciences (EHS) research, and/or
- Develop new tools or resources that will either foster further NIEHS relevant grants or markedly advance the translation of research for improving environmental health and environmental justice.

Successful applications will be those that have a strong likelihood of leading to significant NIEHS funding in the short-term, and will also demonstrate one or more of the following:

- A strong likelihood of leading to direct development/implementation of resources/tools relevant to the EHS
- Alignment with the [EHSC Pilot Program Priority Areas for 2024-2025 \(see below\)](#) or [EHSC Community Research Priorities \(click on the link\)](#)
- Potential relevance to one of EHSC's Pilot Program funding partners which include: the Air Quality Research Center, California National Primate Research Center, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Center for Molecular and Genomic Imaging, Veterinary Clinician Scientists working on EHS, the MIND Institute, and the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety.

ELIGIBILITY:

- All UC Davis investigators who are eligible to apply as Principal Investigators for NIH grants.
- Prior applicants to the EHSC Pilot Projects Program who were not funded are encouraged to revise and resubmit, according to the reviews they received.

EHSC PILOT PROGRAM PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2023-2024:

[SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS](#)

- Community Engagement, Intervention or Translational Research, and Public Policy
- Clinical, Epidemiologic, and/or Climate Change Research
- Local emissions and acute pulmonary health effects. Note that [the UC Davis Air Quality Research Center](#) is a significant co-funder for this target topic.

- Cancer Disparities Research. [The UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center \(CCC\)](#) will be a significant co-funder of cancer-related applications.
- Children's Environmental Health
- Workplace Hazards to Health

AWARD TYPES FOR 2024-2025:

[SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS](#)

- **Type 1 one-year project awards for \$20,000 to \$30,000** direct costs; a community engagement plan is encouraged but not required.
- **Type 2 two-year awards for up to \$30,000/year** direct (\$60,000 total) with community outreach and engagement throughout the research process including project design, data collection, interpretation of results and dissemination.
- **Type 3 one-year awards for up to \$50,000** direct costs; will compellingly lay the foundation for significantly expanding an established research program through major new extramural funding. These awards are targeted to mid-career or established investigators.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- Concept Letters are required and are due by **1 PM October 23, 2023** on InfoReady.
 - Concept Letters are reviewed for relevance to the NIEHS mission including incorporation of a relevant environmental exposure. Researchers whose concept proposal meets the relevance criteria will be invited to submit a full application.
 - At the time of submitting the Concept Letters, applicants can request EHSC Core Consults. Applicants who obtain core assistance with their full proposals increase their likelihood of success.
- Full proposals from invited applicants are due by **1 PM on November 27, 2023** on InfoReady.
 - Each PI may submit only one proposal. Full Proposals undergo a full scientific review and a community review. See website for details about our review process.
- The most competitive proposals will be invited to give a brief oral presentation of their ideas and response to reviewer comments on **January 22, 2024 11:00-3:00** to the Center Leadership.

REVIEW CRITERIA:

[SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS](#)

- The review process considers: (a) standard NIH review criteria; (b) EHSC Pilot Program Priority Areas; and (c) if applicable, EHSC Community Research Priorities. Please see the website for more details on the scientific and community reviews.

INFOREADY:

- After reading the applicant instructions and stakeholder research priorities on the following pages, submit concept letters online at: <https://ucdavis.infoready4.com/#applicationGrid/1915071>

QUESTIONS?

- Contact Ruth Williams <ruwilliams@ucdavis.edu> for application upload questions.
- Contact Laura Van Winkle <lsvanwinkle@ucdavis.edu> (530-754-7547) or Judy Van de Water <javandewater@ucdavis.edu> (530-752-2154) for scientific content questions.