

HEI RFA 24-1: Cumulative Impact Assessment for Decision-Making: A Community-Academic Partnership Approach

This file includes answers to questions posed by participants of the applicant informational webinar held April 3, 2024. If you do not find an answer to your question here, you can consult our [frequently asked questions page](#) or email Dr. Anna Rosofsky at arosofsky@healtheffects.org for more information. You can also sign up for Dr. Rosofsky's [office hours](#) for additional assistance.

Eligibility and Review Process

Can applicants partner with a local air quality regulatory agency as part of an application related to sharing air quality data and existing community partnerships?	Yes, you can collaborate with a regulatory agency, but there might be restrictions from that agency regarding their ability to join the team or receive funding.
Is there any restriction related to country or location of Principal Investigators and communities?	This RFA is focused on communities in the United States. Collaborators can be located outside of the United States, but because the Principal Investigator is expected to have a strong relationship with the community, they would most likely be located in the United States.
Can you clarify an academic/research institution? Does it have to be a university or could it be a research non-profit?	An academic/research institution can be a research non-profit. Additional details about how HEI defines an academic institution can be found on our website .
Are Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC) eligible to be PIs on this RFA?	No, FFRDCs are not eligible to be Principal Investigators for this RFA.
Can the research institution Co-Principal Investigator have a master's degree, or is a PhD required?	A PhD is not required, but if the Principal Investigator has a master's degree, they must demonstrate experience and expertise conducting relevant research and a track record of leading multidisciplinary teams.
Can you share some criteria by which the panel will judge the Track 1 applications?	The criteria can be found in the RFA , and the Track 1 application is formatted so that each piece of the application matches to an evaluation criterion.
Can research teams working with more than one community apply more than once?	Investigators are prohibited from applying as a Principal Investigator on more than one project for the same RFA.

Tracks 1 and 2

For Track 1, will the second phase be guaranteed, or is there a second application period after the CBO and research partners determine the needs and establish a plan?	Although Phase II is not guaranteed, HEI and the Oversight Panel will provide constructive feedback that should position teams for a successful Phase II.
Can an established academic-community partnership apply for Track 1 if problem development is required?	HEI is looking to uplift academic institutions and community partners that have less experience in working in this area through Track 1. However, if an established academic-community partnership needs support for problem formulation for their specific research project, they are welcome to apply to Track 1.
Can you speak to the number and types of letters of support recommended for Phase 2?	HEI does not require a certain number of Letters of Support. It is up to the research team to decide the number and types of letters that will best support their application. Letters of support are welcome but not required at the preliminary application stage.
If you finish Phase I earlier than 12 months, are you able to move on to Phase II early?	Yes, HEI would like the teams to stay on generally the same track, but a team can move on to Phase II earlier if they have met all their Phase I milestones.
Roughly speaking, what is your 'best guess' at the number of applications you will receive for each Track opportunity?	Because this is a new application format for HEI, there is no specific estimate of the anticipated number of applications that HEI will receive for each Track opportunity.
Can we skip Phase I and only apply for Phase II?	To skip Phase I and apply straight to Phase II, use the Track 2 application.
How many Track 2 applicants will be invited to submit the full application?	Typically, HEI invites a maximum of 10 applicants from the preliminary application stage to submit full applications.
How many studies do you expect to fund through Tracks 1 and 2?	HEI expects to fund three studies through Track 1, and two studies through Track 2.

RFA Scope

Would interventions or decision contexts need to aim for reduction of both chemical and nonchemical exposures?	Intervention or decision contexts could look at benefits or disbenefits of a specific intervention.
Would a pre- and post-evaluation cumulative impact assessments of an EJ intervention address this RFA?	Yes, evaluating a specific intervention using cumulative impact assessments would be responsive to this RFA.
How much detail is needed or preferred to describe proposed government allocation decisions based on assessment results? Do you need a commitment from a local government to act on assessment results?	This information is not a requirement of the application or proposal. If policy evaluation is a component, HEI recommends engaging with relevant regulatory agencies early in the research development process and provide a description in the application of the relevance of the study to the selected policy or regulation. However, a commitment from local government is not required.

Is this for outdoor air quality or could the focus be on indoor air quality?	Proposals can focus the air quality element of their proposal on indoor air quality, outdoor air quality, or both.
For the purpose of this RFA, is there a distinction being made between cumulative risk assessment and cumulative impact assessment?	HEI is not making a distinction between cumulative risk assessment and cumulative impact assessment for this RFA.
Is there more interest in funding projects that look at mobile sources vs stationary sources of pollution/chemicals?	The Environmental Justice Oversight Panel has not expressed a preference for funding any one topic area.
The multiphase RFA notes "source-specific state implementation plans" as an example of a decision context. Would facility-specific risk management plans also be relevant?	Additional information about that specific context is needed because it depends on the facility-specific risk management plan and whether there would be cumulative impacts to assess.
Is the design and implementation of community- or household-level interventions within the scope of Phase II?	Yes, the design and implementation of a community- or household-level intervention is within the scope as long as a cumulative impact assessment would be relevant to assessing the costs, benefits, or efficacy of that intervention.

Additional Questions

Should we reach out to Dr Rosofsky if future questions arise?	Yes, you can reach out to Dr. Rosofsky via email (arosofsky@healtheffects.org), or you can sign up for her office hours to ask additional questions. To sign up for office hours, you can use this link , which can also be found on the RFA webpage.
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