



Development of Innovative Approaches to Assess the Toxicity of Chemical Mixtures

Informational Webinar for Applicants

EPA STAR RFA

October 21, 2021

- Review application Information for the EPA STAR RFA:
 - “Development of Innovative Approaches to Assess the Toxicity of Chemical Mixtures Request for Applications”
- Provide guidance for eligibility, submission, technical aspects of application process
- Answer questions about the application process

Webinar Ground Rules

- Please hold your questions until all EPA presentations have been made.
- You may type your questions in the comments box.
- No specific research project or idea can be discussed but, clarifying questions regarding what is written in the RFA announcement may be answered.
- These slides will be provided after the webinar.
- Please keep yourself muted during the presentation.



Agency Contacts

- **Technical Contact:** Hayley Aja, Project Officer (aja.hayley@epa.gov); phone: 202-564-6427
- **Eligibility Contact:** Ron Josephson, Eligibility & Peer Review Officer (josephson.ron@epa.gov); phone: 202-564-7823
- **Electronic Submissions:** Debra M. Jones, Administrative Officer (jones.debram@epa.gov); phone: 202-564-7839



RFA and Award Information

- RFA will close on December 8, 2021, at 11:59:59 pm Eastern Time
- Estimated Number of Awards: 6 (4 regular and 2 early career)
- Anticipated Funding Amount: Up to \$750,000 total per regular award; up to \$600,000 total per early career award.
- Cost sharing is not needed or allowed
- Proposed budget must not exceed \$750,000 for regular awards and \$600,000 for early career awards.
- Details in the Award Information section of the RFA.

Read the RFA very carefully, all necessary information is provided

Research Interest: The development of methods and models to inform human health assessment of chemical mixtures in the environment.

- Potential chemical study mixtures may include representative structurally-related chemical groups, or more broadly, mixtures co-located in the environment (regardless of structural lineage or membership).
 - These may include PFAS, phthalates, PAHs, DBPs or other well-characterized mixtures.
- The mixtures evaluated could include whole mixtures which may or may not be comprehensively characterized, or defined mixtures with detailed description of analytical composition.

Research Questions (Must address at least one of the following two research areas):

1. Development and application of approaches to establish qualitative membership of chemical mixture components into toxicity pathway groupings in order to quantitatively evaluate their potential joint toxicity.
2. Development of tools useful for the examination of chemical mixture toxicity across different levels of biological organization.

Potential outcomes expected under the funded research may include:

- Advancements in hazard assessments (including grouping strategies) of the multitude of chemicals considered in a mixtures risk context that will support state, local and tribal efforts in addressing contaminants of concern.
- Improved integration of multiple lines of evidence across assay/data type.
- Enhanced identification of commonalities among responses to chemical mixtures at different levels of biological organization which address the relevance of these levels and the responses to health outcomes (e.g., apical endpoints).



Eligibility Information

Eligible to Apply (See Section III)

Public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations

Public and private institutions of higher education

Hospitals located in the U.S

State and local governments

Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments

Foreign collaborators, data collection or use are OK

- International Budget needs to be justified, reviewed, and approved

Early Career Awards will support research performed by PIs with outstanding promise at the Assistant Professor or equivalent level. PIs applying for the early career awards must:

- Hold a doctoral degree in a field related to the research being solicited by the closing date of the RFA;
- Be untenured at the closing date of the RFA; and
- Be employed in a tenure-track position (or tenure-track-equivalent position) as an assistant professor (or equivalent title) by the award date.

The application must include an early career verification.



Application Materials and Process

- **Section IV. Application And Submission Information** of the RFA
- To apply under this solicitation, use the application package available at **Grants.gov**
- For further submission information see: **RFA Section IV.F. “Submission Instructions and other Submission Requirements”**
- Note: All necessary forms are included in the electronic application package, with the exception of the current and pending support form, available at: **Research Funding Opportunities: How to Apply and Required Forms.**

Make sure to include the current and pending support form as part of the Project Narrative of your submission.



Application Materials and Process

Required application package materials include:

- EPA Human Subjects Research Statement (HSRS)
- Scientific Data Management Plan (SDMP)



Application Review Process

Please refer to the following RFA sections for additional information:

V. Application Review Information

- Peer Review Criteria
- Relevancy Review Criteria
- Peer Review Officer: Chris Rea, Rea.Chris.L@epa.gov
202-564-2517
- Peer Review Team Lead: Meta Bonner,
bonner.meta@epa.gov, 202-564-4109



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Thank you!