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2

These are addressed earlier- community partnerhips, local health agencies, public health and public schools, surgeon general. I would add state education departments directly with state departments of heath/ecology etc.

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3

A new PEHP can leverage the forces driving a shift from Mode 1 to Mode 2 universities for purposes of promoting sustainable development. Indeed, there is a rising tide of work focused on such aims. Highlighting the importance of equitable knowledge co-production and use through university-community partnerships and collaboration, we are beginning to see books like Forrant et al's Approaches to sustainable development : the public university in the regional economy; Gilderbloom and Mullins' Promise and betrayal : universities and the battle for sustainable urban neighborhoods; Jones et al.'s Creating knowledge, strengthening nations : the changing role of higher education ; Shapiro's A larger sense of purpose : higher education and society; Rhoads and Torres' The university, state, and market : the political economy of globalization in the Americas; and Sonnert and Holton's Ivory bridges : connecting science and society (Forrant 2001; Gilderbloom and Mullins 2005; Jones et al. 2005; Rhoads and Torres 2006; Shapiro 2005; Sonnert and Holton 2002).

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4

The partnership should look for new partners in areas where the practical application of previous research findings is being used in the "real world". Organizations such as the NIEHS Worker Education Training Program (WETP) and labor organizations would be valuable partners for the partnerships future endeavors.

Other partnerships that could benefit the partnership include

- \* Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) - to establish stricter and more consistent training guidelines
- \* Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) - planning for disaster response and recovery. Anytime there is a disaster where MSHA must respond it always involves the public and the communities in which they live.
- \* Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) - disaster preparedness and response. Disasters which involve FEMA also involve the public and their communities.

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7

Partnerships with university and private sector entities should be further developed. Development of partnerships with educational and outreach organizations is a must. Existing

partnerships with state and professional agencies will allow a better development and integration of resources, development, and assessment of new and/or existing needs based analyses. This could include internships and fellowship, incorporating rotations within laboratories and/or organizations to increase knowledge base and development of the program. Partnerships can also be strengthened stipulation of specific partnership involvement as a condition of funding or continued funding. Continued support of an Expert Working Group or similar organization as part of the project and beyond the project (allowing expansion of goals and focus of the partners) will strengthen partnership.

The partnership developed between PEPH and these entities will only create further "out of the box, innovative, visionary" ideas and comments to help revitalize, stimulate, and shape the program. Existing partnerships could be strengthened by providing more resources (e.g., grants, funding, equipment, personnel). Typically, providing necessary funding, as well as personnel to specific programs and/or projects will help in productivity and accountability for individual parties.

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8

I do not feel prepared to speak to relationship issues.

Strengthen the ties with nurses as suggested in previous questions.

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9

See response to question 1. Additionally, it is critical to recognize the actual and potential role of Nursing in advancing environmental health. In particular, nurses have advocacy and policy work historically integrated into their professional mission. However, nurses may not be fully aware of the way environmental health protection policies are developed or implemented, thus may not be engaged in environmental health actions. NIEHS should convene a workshop or conference for nurses and other health professionals on the modes of advocacy for environmental health, such as zoning issues, local/state/federal legislation, and regulatory mechanisms. This, of course, would not be a program to support any specific bill or regulation but rather a program to enhance health professionals' skills to help navigate spheres of research, practice, and policy.

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Focus on outstanding scientists rather than institutions.

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13

Don't know.

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EHN Research Centers  
American Academy of Nursing  
National Institute for Nursing Research  
American Association of Occupational & Environmental Health Nurses

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15

Links to non-governmental groups, federal agency staff (who often tell me that NIEHS has better potential to link them to each other than they themselves), state and local policy makers.

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16

Existing NIEHS EJ grantees would benefit from periodic check-in visits by NIEHS staff.

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17

Partnerships should include:

- community residents and representatives from the organizations representing them
- workers and representatives from labor unions, worker centers and other community-based organizations
- university-based researchers and educators
- government representatives - local, state and federal, depending on the project

Funding for regional meetings of grantees would build upon the effectiveness of current national grantees' meetings, allowing for more collaboration at local and regional levels across grantees and potentially leading to policy changes that could serve as a model for future national policy initiatives

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18

For work on housing quality and childcare environments, NIEHS should partner with EPA and CDC. For housing quality specifically, NIEHS should partner with HUD. For childcare environments specifically, NIEHS should partner with head start, migrant head start and other local, state and national childcare organizations.

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When considering partnerships and educational approaches in communities, motivational and incentive-based approaches must be included. Merely educating and engaging communities will capture a limited portion of the community; seeking participation from those difficult-to-reach and those with problem-behaviors should be addressed. (Reaching the “other 10 %” – beyond the majority.)

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23

Health Departments need to be strengthened to be able to provide the leadership in the communities to educate and to implement prevention models. Mayors and City Councils should also be included as potential supporters/decision makers.

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Although EPA, CDC and other federal agencies have functional and formal relationships with state health departments, local health departments are where the rubber hits the road relative to environmental exposures that impact communities. Local health departments are often in the best position, given adequate assistance, to manage research or interventional activities. Federal agencies need mechanisms to deal directly with local public health.

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25

Sharing resources, etc among governmental agencies. The partnership model that shows the "interagency" truly functioning as defined and private stakeholders are appropriately engaged is a good model.

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26

It may not be necessary to develop new partnerships. However, a program with an urban area that is already impacted by numerous problematic environmental sources and is also ripe for Smart Growth projects would seem to be an critical test bed for such a project. Linking such a community with universities or other technical resources providing environmental monitoring capabilities, Smart Growth project planning capabilities, as well as public health resources, would seem to be a preferable approach for such a project.

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27

Not sure, but would urge whatever programs that are funded to develop the needed local partnerships.

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28

Serious thought should be given to whether partnerships especially non-scientific ones really do advance environmental health research, and care be taken not to overemphasize the role and benefits of partnership at least not to the detriment of the scientific research

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Community networks for education, training, and research

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30

Learn from "the alarmists" (the "vision" folks, in your terminology).

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32

To begin to address the increasing incidence of diseases of the elderly that are linked to water, there must be developed a platform for the discussion and collaboration between public health authorities, public and private water utilities, manufacturer's of water heaters, home builders, and public agencies and private foundations. Federal agencies are uniquely poised to provide this service.

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Universities need to get off their high horses and realize that the public does not always trust nor support academia. Our message is not reaching the clients we need it to reach, namely the taxpayers who fund our positions, research, and activities. The taxpayers distrust of Washington carries over into our worlds far from Washington. Washington's ignorance of our world also contributes to the mess we are in. One manifestation of this misunderstanding is the whole Effort Reporting fiasco that is invading our campus. It is placing a huge financial burden on our administration due to a lack of understanding of the ways of research. We at the universities did not do our job and now we are going to suffer for it. The partnership that needs work is the federal agencies like NIH/NSF and the research entities that they are supposed to be supporting.

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36

Continue to develop relationships with public planning offices and organizations that support developers and designers, such as ULI, APA, ASLA, and USGBC. These are key sources for information on "what's hot" in the community planning/building field. If they promote a new strategy, the field listens.

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37

- Important new partnerships must include:
  - o State agencies, including departments other than Public Health: Public Instruction, Environment, Housing, Nutrition Services, etc
  - o Local Health Departments
  - o Community Advocacy Groups (including environmental groups)
  - o Faith-based networks
  - o Social services organizations
  - o State legislators

38

Public Health research needs to be partnered with urban planning as well as planning departments.

39

Seek out nurses and especially public health nurses as partners in planning, data gathering, implementing intervention and evaluation.

40

Exercise existing partnerships with new information and initiatives. National leadership, consistent and concise message, and the most infamous and elusive of all: adequate resources for the grass roots health education effort.

41

NIEHS should strengthen the Environmental Justice partnerships and also consider more work with political parties, which are systematically excluded from most of them., as far as I know. Unions also need to be invited to participate in environmental research beyond the workplace. Labor-environment partnerships need to also be strengthened. I would develop a specific partnership with community-media, especially in immigrant communities that have a high level of non-English speakers.

42

One of the major collaborations I find lacking is partnerships with public health workers at the state and county level. There are many partnerships already formed between researchers, communities, teachers, and students. However, recent changes in funding have decreased the availability of funding to reach out to teachers and students.

43

- 1) To promote environmental health research as a career, partner with career services at universities/colleges
- 2) Utilize faith-based organizations to increase awareness of EH issues
- 3) Partner with communication industry (media, cable, cell phones, entertainment, etc.)
- 4) Strengthen partnerships with K-12 education (the best way to ensure an informed public for the long-term is to impact our children so that learn before their habits are established). Continue to offer effective curriculum to schools to assist them with preparing our students for future (and state testing).

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45

The most effective and sustainable partnerships satisfy mutual needs, For example when a community that has a problem partners with researchers/educators to help it, or researchers work with the community to develop new information on a problem that can assist in its resolution.

Such partnerships can be fostered by external agencies such as NIEHS and/or by the provision of resources, but their success depends on qualities such as mutual respect, trust, good communication and perceived effectiveness in satisfying the needs of the partners. Successful partnerships self-generate and are not established by external fiat.

- NIEHS should thus make a first priority of strengthening existing partnerships rather than creating new ones
- NIEHS can help by directing funding available to partnerships to conduct research and other activities, and by encouraging and promoting work by partnerships.
- NIEHS should promote case studies of successful partnerships as examples that others can learn from and fund research on what makes partnerships sustainable and effective.
- Funding of research by partnerships should be on a regular schedule and should allow for competitive renewals. Unlike R01 mechanisms, EJ and CBPR research funding announcements have often been intermittent and have lacked mechanisms to fund necessary or desirable follow-up efforts. Thus there is no mechanism to sustain very productive EJ and CBPR research by community-scientist partnerships.

NIEHS might conduct or sponsor one or more open scientific meetings around partnership research efforts.

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46

Existing partnerships would be strengthened by making CBOs an equitable partner at the table as project PIs. The current relationship with CBOs can lead to data extraction by university PIs and little translation of findings to those impacted in low-income communities of color. The NIEHS can address this by directly funding more CBOs as PIs and allowing them to identify university research partners (similar to the USEPA CPS, USEPA EJ small grants, and USEPA CARE programs).

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47

I am not sure what current partnerships are in place. Working with the USEPA indoor environments program and existing and budding training teams. Look at state outreach and information center such as Wisconsin's program guided by Conrad Wieffenbach.

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See above.

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NIEHS should continue to fund partnerships between researchers and schools/teachers.

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51

Existing partnerships need to be able to apply for funding to sustain and expand successful efforts. Many federal funding programs view their granting efforts as "seed monies" to develop and evaluate model programs. Unfortunately, local communities rarely have sufficient resources to keep programs (even good ones) going beyond the period of federal support. Schools have limited funds to expend on a per student basis and almost no resources for specialized teacher professional development, program expansion or even teaching materials. Community organizations have even fewer resources to sustain ongoing successful programs. Of course, it would not be realistic to expect NIEHS to continue to fund partnership programs "forever." However, continuing support to programs that are expanding to reach new audiences, evolving new models or addressing new environmental health topics--might be worth considering. This would prevent the original investment by NIEHS from being lost. In addition, attention should be paid to the new types of professionals that are emerging as a result of NIEHS-funded partnerships. These highly skilled project personnel bridge science and health education, are comfortable in academic and community or school settings, and often are very effective communicators. Perhaps more explicit attention can be paid to the human capital that is developed by partnerships.

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The program should provide funding that allows for new partnerships particularly environmental justice and environmental health disparity focused partnerships. For new partnerships, the grants could development or planning grants of 1-3 years with funding at the level of 100,000 to 250,000 dollars/yr. Short-term exploratory research grants could be made available for implementation of the research or regular five year grants. The new PEPH program needs to get back to the core goals and objectives established under Dr. Ken Olden (i.e., Partnerships for Communication). In addition to the progress made to fund community-university partnerships during Dr. Olden's leadership, funding needs to provided to historical minority serving institutions to expand upon Dr. Olden's vision. Funding mechanisms need to be created that provide monies for historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), Latino Serving Institutions, Native American, Asian/Pacific

Islander serving institutions to build partnerships with local communities and populations of color. This money could either fund individual institutions or consortia to do research with local communities on EJ and environmental health issues and/or fund educational courses and pipeline development programs around CBPR and environmental justice. Additional partnerships need to be developed between NIEHS and other federal organizations such as DOT, DOD, DOE, and HUD, state level health services and environmental protection agencies, and local level groups such as real estate developers (brownfields), planning associations, community development corporations, health clinics, and other local level health agencies. NIEHS should also develop partnerships with foundations such as Robert Wood Johnson, Kellogg, and Ford Foundation who are funding population health, CBPR, community-engagement, partnership., built environment., health disparities, vulnerable populations, and environmental justice research.

Additional more longer term grants based on the center grant template should be available to long-term partnerships such as the West End Revitalization Association's community-university



partnership. This funding should be used to help provide community-driven research infrastructure support particularly in areas with a large number of environmental justice and environmental health issues, establish mini-EJ partnership research centers in local areas or regions, and make sure that there will be opportunities using these center grants for exposure, prevention, intervention, dissemination and environmental health policy research. There should be center grants with the same level of funding for academic and research institutions and community-based organizations. Partnerships between NIEHS and EPA in doing joint funding initiatives should be strengthened and expanded.

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54

NEW:

- \* Partnerships between public policy centers and research centers
- \* Urban and transportation planning and health research centers
- \* Economic analysis and research centers

STRENGTHENING EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS:

- \* Training for researchers on working in partnerships and ethical issues related to community-based research and interventions
- \* CAB members and community partners must receive direct and adequate funds (not just receiving stipends through centers)
- \* Principles of collaboration must be developed, agreed upon, and be made a part of each proposal
- \* Academic centers could place post-docs to develop health projects with CBOs.

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55

It would be helpful to identify political candidates (as well as elected political persons) with a willingness to promote the environmental agenda, available information and also those willing to assist in developing and implementing regulatory controls on manufacturing and the hospital industry. Then we could partner with and promote those who are supportive. Partnering with agencies that support affected patients such as the Alzheimers Assn, Autism, ADHD, etc., so that effective and current strategies to assist those affected can be promoted as well as the appropriate preventive environmental strategy.

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56

Strengthening existing partnerships should be a priority. The following would be most helpful: Better understanding and increased willingness among IRBs to work with community researchers. Increased recognition of the expertise, skills and energies of community advocates by university-based researchers. Community partners need to have some legitimate or legal standing that affords them many of the rights and responsibilities of institutional researchers. These issues are not beyond the reach of NIEHS. The carefully crafted language of RFAs, RFPs and on-going grant programs, even Ro1s, are followed by applicants and their institutions.

Without dictating the operations of any institution or its components, NIH can move / lead institutions and individual researchers in new directions.

At the same time, the degree granting research institutions would benefit public health by finding ways to give community advocates academic credit for their work on research programs. The knowledge and skills gained by our community partners in the process of partnering on research programs is enormous. Many would prefer academic credits to financial reimbursement; some prefer the funds; and others would like both. This is no small issue as community partners, with no financial incentive, forego personal commitments to attend meetings, conference calls, workshops, etc. The pay divide can wear and take a real toll on good working relationships; and it doesn't go away over time.

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57

A variety of partnerships can be developed and/or strengthened, including those with the K-12 educational community, policy makers and grass root community organizations. Environmental justice has, like K-12 education, been undervalued by the recent administration. These partnerships are particularly hard won, and will need additional attention to maintain and reinvigorate. In order to improve the communications between target audiences and researchers, accurate and up to date information on exposures and health effects needs to be readily available. Perhaps this presents opportunities to strengthen partnerships within the NIEHS family, between Superfund Center researchers, Toxicology Program participants, Educational Project grantees, NIEHS Centers and their COECs, in order to facilitate collaborations that contribute to the development of novel and effective methods for communication of critical scientific information to the public and policy makers.

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58

The recurring theme in my response to this RFI is to be inclusive -- of course you can't partner with every possible stakeholder in every activity, but because of the bpartnerships should include basic scientists, universities, grassroots organizations, the medical community, educators, and regulatory agencies (city to federal). As a general, final comment, NIEHS needs to be prepared to engage in an ongoing, fluid, and dynamic process in defining PEPH and its associated activities and partnerships. The first defining steps of this PEPH process to identify where you have been and what public health mechanisms, data, partnerships, etc. already exist (or existed) as a result of NIEHS funding. This will help define the program and help you set up some sort of organizational schematic into which to place future activities and to begin determining the evaluative measures you want to use. Although this is and should be an organic and dynamic process, that does not limit the need for structure, tracking, and evaluation, programmatically, as well as, for individual projects. The real questions should be based around "how do you define and measure success?", not "which specific methods, themes or partnerships should be included or excluded?".

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59

You have done a great job of creating partnerships. I suspect more public/private partnerships will be required in the future. Also, I believe there is a lot of strength in schools of public health, that many deans are interested and that the ASPH could be a strong partner.

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60

New Partnerships: Health care providers, child care providers, school administrators/Boards/teachers, social workers

Existing Partnerships: Can be strengthened by incorporating the above stakeholders into many if not all of the existing partnerships. Also, by incorporating the needs of the highest-risk communities first, inevitably, communities as a whole will have the opportunity to bridge the vital connections between environmental exposures and health outcomes.

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61

A formal relationship should be created with the nursing community. I would recommend that NIEHS address the Alliance, which is a group of nurses who represent 100 or so nursing subspecialties, during their annual meeting, which is sponsored by the American Nurses Association (ANA). I think that NIEHS should also formally partner with (and provide funding to) the Quad Council regarding training, education, research. The Quad council members are: the Public Health Nursing Section of APHA, the Association of Community Health Nurse Educators, the Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing, and the ANA

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In the absence of significant funding and leadership at the federal level, the environmental health community has grown up on its own. The Collaborative on Health and the Environment ([www.healthandenvironment.org](http://www.healthandenvironment.org)) has played a starring role in organizing this movement with workgroups, conference calls, meetings and online resources. Great partnerships emerge from CHE. Also, as the movement matures, brand new partners emerge from unexpected fields. For example, the reproductive health community is quickly delving into the role of the environment, thereby making them a strong partner of other health effected groups like Alzheimer’s, asthma, breast cancer, and leukemia. The common thread among them is the role of the environment.

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65

More consumer involvement! How can existing partnerships be strengthened? Scientist following the lead of their advocates on working together in a timely, responsible fashion.

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66

Perhaps we need better strategies to engage public policy makers so that we get the funding we need to do this research.

How can existing partnerships be strengthened?

We need help from the NIEHS in enforcing how the work should be done as stated in the RFA.

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67

\* NIEHS and USDA and universities with cooperative extension programs.

This will help enhance outreach particularly to rural communities.

\* NIEHS could partner with BCCCP (federally funded Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program) to enhance outreach in local rural communities that could result in more constituents being appropriately screened for breast cancer. Local BCCCPs are not able to adequately staff outreach initiatives and screening. The partnership on the federal level could enhance partnerships between local entities and result in more women being screened by local health departments. -Partnerships with television affiliates could be used to create mass media campaigns ? such as the national NBC campaign in fall 2007 to make the public aware of global warming and to get the general public to take steps to become energy efficient.

\* NIEHS could increase its Public Interest Partner List to include the American Heart Association, NCEH (CDC), the IPCC, the US Climate Change Science Program and the US EPA on climate change issues affecting health. Enhance relationships with these organizations, as they do with national breast cancer organizations and with other groups like the American Lung Association. Seek opportunities for national campaigns, especially those that can result in joint sources of funding.

\* Partnerships with national faith-based communities could enhance COEPs opportunities to conduct outreach locally at faith-based organizations.

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68

Effective community/university relations are crucial for partnerships to succeed and for research projects to have a significant impact in vulnerable communities. To that end, we recommend that funding go to support community/university research hubs that value and prioritize community based participatory research in both concept and practice. We believe that effective CBPR projects must be led by the community, and that partnerships with universities must be partnerships in the real sense of the word. We also think that there needs to be more community participation in the Institutional Review Board process. This will allow this process to be strengthened by the voices of those who are most affected by decisions and practices that are part of CBPR-focused projects.

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69

Again, I would recommend strong collaboration with and support of the national and state(s) Environmental Public Health Tracking Network(s). I think the partnership may already exist.

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70

Broader ways to define community are important and can be useful in some situations in which "communities" are not defined by CBOs, for example, when scientists work with schools, or groups of patients. These partnerships can have great impact, even though the "community" is not organized under a particular leader or group.

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71

Existing partnership with EPA Superfund’s Community Involvement and Outreach Branch can be strengthened through increased interaction.

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72

See answer 2A

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73

NIEHS should develop partnerships with environmental health professional associations in order to benefit from the knowledge and experiences of environmental health practitioners and academicians.

NEHA, with its networking and educational experience, can be a valuable partner to make public health professionals aware of various environmental exposures and other environmental health issues. NEHA members can then work to educate both policy makers and the lay public to help eliminate or reduce adverse health outcomes.

Also, NEHA works with a national network of state environmental health association affiliates that are involved with state and local (i.e., city or county) level interests. NEHA also has industry and the uniformed services (to include the military services and the Public Health Service) affiliates.

In addition to NEHA, other organizations/potential partners may include the:

- Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP)
- Association of School of Public Health (ASPH)
- National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC)
- National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO)
- Public Health Foundation (PHF)

Existing partnerships should include other federal agencies such as EPA, FDA, USDA, and HHS (CDC, ATSDR, NIOSH). This project provides the opportunity for all of the agencies to work together to accomplish the goal of reducing adverse health effects from environmental exposures. Many of these agencies have funded or done their own research on environmental contaminants and exposures; working together, many of the projects that have been done in the past can be brought together compiled, organized and presented as a unified message.

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74

New ones where lacking: Research partnerships that emphasize the need for the active engagement with vulnerable people themselves, not just community based groups who claim to represent them. Strengthening of the partnerships can happen with a focus on priorities that are in part defined by vulnerable groups, in part by existing scientific evidence. Researchers need to recognize the value of local/indigenous knowledge, science as "experiential knowledge"

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75

The PEPH should build a partnership with the National Children’s Study. It should also focus work on the community level so more farmworkers and their families feel the kind of trust needed to participate in studies of pesticide exposure.

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76

Continued funding for Community Outreach centers is important as a major way to disseminate research findings to individuals and communities who can make use of research findings in

policy advocacy; to assist communities in designing and implementing their own research; and in bringing together academic, clinical, and community groups to share information and develop strategy.

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77

Partnerships that link academic faculty/staff from multiple departments beyond environmental and public health (e.g., government, public policy, land-use planning, political science, sociology)

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78

The Minority Worker Training Program is under exceptional leadership from NIEHS, and the whole idea of partnerships and partnering are instilled in all awardees. Just continue encouraging all awardees to continue sharing information and training strategies.

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79

While we will utilize all of the connections we have already developed, this initiative will definitely create the opportunity to enlarge this network to add new partners. the key is to have the Internet information resource outlined in 2A first, and therefore we have a tangible product to offer to our new partners

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80

Identify the agencies, organisations working on the same goal or agenda or in the same community, or those working on different goal but with probably relevant outcome. Example: Agencies working on infectious diseases or sanitation problem, those working internationally or in other developed or developing countries.

How can existing partnerships be strengthened?

- \* Focus on goals and ways to reach them.
- \* Conduct brain storming sessions and meetings with those organizations to develop innovative strategies to work on the goal.
- \* Discuss about the target community, barriers, facilitating options.
- \* Discuss and resolve the organisational mismanagement, any personal conflicts
- \* To emphasis the need to work for affected community and paying back to the society by working for people and making use of our skills and knowledge.
- \* Appropriate and transperant financial and budgeting arrangements and decisions.
- \* Proper and timely clear communication.

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81

New programs might include other health issues that I mentioned in #4. Existing programs if working well should be continued if funding is available.

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Not sure

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83

Need to work with the policy making community, as well as CDC's Public Health Law Program and EPA. Health and Environmental agencies must work together, to give the public and policy making community a sense of coordination at the Federal level.

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Forming a partnership with BSPI will enable the organization to make the information learned available and promoted to the general public, encouraging a healthier building standard which will be better for the entire human populace, not just those living with MCS and the chemically disabled. A Partnership with PEPH and BSPI could strengthen relationships with the Bau-Biologie Institute and The US Green Building Council's LEED program, improving living standards for the general public by greatly improving the overall quality of life.

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86

Middle high and community college students need to be included-they can effectively deliver messages to policy makers, teachers, parents-we need to give them a voice and utilize their energy to help shape their world-it's a way of mentoring, honoring, educating,listening and assists them in becoming participating, civic minded individuals who are not disenfranchised (as long as they can effect change). It doesn't mean only "A" students participate-kids in detention have as much to say as do shy and home schooled and kids with physical and mental challenges kids-let them participate at their levels. It only takes a few adults to harness their energy, and they can reach many more people than 'professionals' can reach-they have a wide audience-blogs, myspace, facebook, etc...Policy makers(elected officials) have not taken public health seriously-many don't understand the link between healthy communities and healthy bottom lines-their concerns are with roads and development-they need to be included (educated).

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How can existing partnerships be strengthened?

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- Local health departments are an underutilized resource and they need to be given resources to help in the conduct of studies and outreach efforts.

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92

There is a need for programs, such as the PEPH program, to actively support community partnerships, specifically through Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR). The purpose of public health research is to identify communities at high-risk for being disproportionately affected by environmental pollutants and to subsequently develop education and policy initiatives as means of effectively addressing and curbing the impact of these health concerns by minimizing exposure. CBPR allows for communities to have an active role in the research process, to provide insight and suggestions to researchers throughout the course of a study so that the effectiveness of the research on these communities is maximized, and to participate intricately in the development of culturally-appropriate interventions that take into consideration the accessibility, literacy level, and nuances of the community of interest. Partnerships with local community based organizations and activist groups, dedicated to working directly with and on behalf of high-risk neighborhoods need to be developed and carefully cultivated. In order to strengthen existing and maintain future partnerships, these community groups need to be included in the research process; not just as study participants, but as members of the community who provide insight and feedback to researchers throughout the course of a study.

Partnerships between scientific research groups (e.g. National Centers for Children’s Environmental Health) should also be supported to share data, specimens and jointly test hypotheses.

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94

On the issue of the built environment, new partnerships with urban planners, transportation officials and architects are critical. NIEHS is encouraged to seek new federal agency partners for joint funding of RFAs in the area of air pollution, including the Federal Highway, Federal Railroad, and Federal Maritime Administrations of the U.S. Department of Transportation, which in a new Administration may be more willing to address environmental health issues in communities where highways, rail yards, rail lines, and ports are being considered for construction or expansion. These federal agencies have few, if any, environmental health scientists on their staffs and little independent understanding of environmental health research and how research findings should be legitimately considered in the environmental reviews of infrastructure projects. Thus, the latest scientific research results are virtually being ignored by these federal agencies and those state agencies to whom they provide guidance. At the state level, any Center working on air pollution issues should attempt to develop a partnership with the State Department of Transportation, in order to begin introducing them to the latest science on the health effects of air pollution, considering those from living or going to school in close proximity to freeways and busy roads.



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We recommend that the PEPH Program include funding mechanisms which support the establishment of new partnerships, for example, through 1 to 2-year planning grants which enable partners to come together and jointly decide on their partnership’s research priorities and approach, with the opportunity to apply for continued implementation funds. In addition, there are a growing number of partnerships which have been working together for a number of years. While obtaining continued funding for specific research projects is often feasible, it is difficult to obtain core funding to support the infrastructure of such long standing partnerships. Such infrastructure support is critical for strengthening and sustaining the long term viability of these partnerships, over and above any specific project-related funds. This is another role in which the PEPH Program could make an important contribution. We also suggest that the PEPH Program could encourage the development and strengthening of partnerships that involve State and Federal governmental partners working alongside local partners on research efforts such as those proposed here.

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99

Not familiar with the PEPH program.

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100

Question 6 – A key ingredient to success is to identify action oriented project leaders. NIEHS could hold funds in reserve in selected funding vehicles to allow for the direct application of these monies for interventions. Cross-training among project partners should be promoted to ensure greater capacity development. Policy makers should be considered for inclusion in future program announcements. Educating policy makers about the realities of community-based risks is a form of communication which the project partners perform frequently. The recent reform of child labor laws in Massachusetts is an example of this type effective advocacy.

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101

New Partnerships Community based research is perhaps the furthest from basic science in outlook and content. Yet, it is clear that basic science understanding lies at the heart of comprehending the factors that account for public health. More specifically, basic environmental health science provides the information that allows public health scientists to attach significance to particular factors of endlessly variable environments. It is crucial that NIEHS support mechanisms that foster the interest of both basic and public health/community scientists to work in partnership to address health and disease issues.

Strengthening Partnerships Partnerships are largely strengthened by the availability of resources/funding and standing institutions that are dedicated to the concept of partnerships and cross-disciplinary research. In this context, Centers can play key roles where they are given

directives and support to do so. Schools of Public Health are logical places to foster interdisciplinary partnerships between environmental health scientists and other public health scientists.

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102

Build from your Center’s structures that already in many cases represent very productive partnerships with EPA, NSF, NCI, etc. NIEHS has been an NIH leader in many community based partnerships; why not continue to set this high standard across other NIH institutes? CDC should also be a partner but this has been less successful.

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103

To truly provide useful outreach and education materials, and to evaluate and update them, partnerships among healthcare professionals, health agencies, community members, and academic researchers is necessary. Oceanographers have their own communities. Funds to facilitate these interactions are critical. Existing partnerships can be enhanced by providing funding for improved outreach and communication. Bioinformatic specialists and modelers are also very important in our translation activities as we need to know how to put messages into public health risk terms and action for our communities. In oceanography we have been amazed at the complex and exciting “real time” satellite data available yet few efforts have been taken by the public health communities to use this data. We need improved models and bioinformation to translate these possibilities.

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104

Partnerships need to be strengthened with health professionals and K-12 teachers, as well as community organizations with an interest in environmental health. The ‘interest’ needs to be strengthened to develop greater competency to address the complex and often polarizing issues (e.g., economic gain vs. long-term health of populations) underlying environmental health concerns.

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105

New: Better relationships for community/research partners and policy-makers and regulators. Mechanisms for continuity, funding streams for all of those necessary to the partnerships

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106

Existing partnerships and the development of new partnerships should be utilized to accomplish the PEPH program. This Center has developed a regional approach that includes a broad-based foundation; however, critical groups are not participants due to lack of resources, such as the New York State Police. Coordination also occurs within subgroups such as in Western New York, where the University at Buffalo has taken the lead to address the need for medical technologists and biotechnologists for its area. The University of Buffalo is also initiating train

the teacher programs to be run in the summer months similar to the program that has been in place in New Jersey through UMDNJ. These types of programs are critical to get students “turned-on” to careers in the environmental health sciences.

Important partners for the PEPH program would include labor, universities, environmental organizations, COSH groups, community based organizations, and the lay public.

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107

Collaborative problem solving partnerships between community-based organization and university research projects that equally share funding, project management, raw data, and publication credits and income. Universities that receive federal and state grants should be held responsible for recruiting students from community from-which data is collected. Universities should also be held responsible assisting local residents in promoting enforcement and compliance to public health violations that contribute health disparities related to the Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act, Solid Waste Disposal Action, and Toxic Substance Management Act.

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108

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109

o In developing and disseminating information, partner with organizations that operate at the local level, such as CityMatCH and NACCHO.

o In conducting research, collaborate with maternal and child health professionals in universities and at the state level.

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110

a.) Educational Partnership(s) should be developed/maintained to ensure that the Program communicates the meaning of the distinctive terminology of the environmentalists and that used by researchers.

b.) Partnerships should be developed/maintained with Federal, State and Local Agencies.

c.) Existing partnerships can be strengthened by including public participation through Advisory Boards and Subcommittees.

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112

• It is not until this RFI that OAI became aware of all the programs under this initiative. OAI’s WETP has been operating without the benefit of research findings from other programs under PEPH. Given the broad scope of the programs and their common threads, a mechanism should be established for intra-grantee collaboration and information sharing.

Supplemental funds should be set aside to promote such partnerships among grantees that should logically connect {e.g., Superfund Basic Research Program Outreach and Education, Worker Education and Training Program, Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR), Environmental Health Sciences Core Centers, Community Outreach and Education, Environmental Justice: Partnerships for Communication}. Grantees from these programs can form an affiliation whereby applied research agenda can be formulated that is mutually beneficial. The synergy can only improve the overall effectiveness of the PEPH. When issuing an RFP, incentive(s) should be provided for applicants to collaborate across programs.

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115

Through broader training, research opportunities and collaborations.

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116

- Work more closely with our local Health Departments in addressing how to educate communities on what is a healthy home and how to make all homes healthy homes.
- Work more closely with our Lead Coalitions to end childhood lead poisoning.
- Work more closely with our legislators to get them to push for healthier communities, and be more mindful of the legislation they pass that negatively impact communities, such as improper demolition practices.

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117

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118

Better understanding of ATSDR. Several community groups we have worked with have said they had a health assessment done, but they never see the results.

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119

Partnerships with CDC (including NIOSH), NSF, NOAA, EPA, other NIH Agencies, State/Local Health and Environmental Departments, and Dept of Education in outreach and education – for example, many social scientists and educators receive substantial funding from NSF!

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120

We hope to be a new, innovative, and productive new partnership to the PEPH program. We are qualified, experienced, educated, and motivated to act within this scope of operation. In addition, because of our access to many organizations, environmental groups, educational institutions, and diverse communities, we see no limit to our contributions to this endeavor. We have connections to local and national interests related to our objectives, which are also the concerns of these entities.

TRES has prepared for this time and action for over 20 years. We feel that we can be an asset and a powerful addition to the PEPH program. It is our hope that we can share our abilities and energies to the NIEHS and to its associates.

In addition, we endeavor to empower existing partnerships, creating new and innovative approaches and partnerships in the spirit of improving health, our water resources, and to provide a contribution for a productive and sustainable environmental future.

We look forward to the challenges and meeting the expectations we have summarized in this document.

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121

Connect scientific and/or academic community and minority worker training programs to have greater dialogue and sharing of information and needs of each to stimulate cooperation and acceptance.

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122

New partnerships that could be developed for the PEPH program could include the local public school district administrators who could develop school projects particular to the various grade levels. The school health care providers can also be helpful in providing and collaborating with the collection of health care data regarding their student population. We are currently working on IRB certification requirements for collection of respiratory illness information in several elementary schools. Other new partners who we currently work with are the irrigation ditch associations who have the authority to regulate water flow and monitor the quality of water in their "acequias". The network of soil and water conservation organizations who also have a mandate to address environmental concerns have conducted surveys in the Rio Grande River and found high level of E-coli contaminants in the water. Particular sectors of the medical community may also be interested in specific concerns. The Chair of the NM Pediatric Association has expressed a desire to collaborate with SVPEJ regarding children's respiratory illnesses. Collaboration with 1000 Friends of the earth Quivira Coalition, and other national and local environmental or sustainability groups have been productive. Most importantly the collaboration and networking with other local community based organization has been the most productive in providing community education and effective mobilization of resources.

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123

We would suggest partnering with associations and organizations that the child care community relates to (National Association for the Education of Young Children and the state affiliates, National Association of Family Child Care, National Child Care Association, Head Start, etc.)

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124

In 2007, CDC/NCEH and EPA embarked on a new collaborative effort that focuses on improving community environmental health. In this spirit, NCEH/EHSB invites NIEHS to participate in the CDC/EPA community environmental public health collaborative effort. Information about this new initiative can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/CEHA/collaboration.htm>.

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125

- NIEHS should meet with CDC, ATSDR, and other environmental public health agencies and credible organizations to identify specific program areas and contacts, to establish frequent discussions about research needs and opportunities, and to identify opportunities to implement and evaluate research-product utilization.
- NIEHS should work with identified program contacts in partner agencies to to conduct an inventory of all the relevant educational and outreach materials on environmental public health. Such an inventory is critical to prevent continued duplication and re-invention of educational materials that already exist. This inventory will determine the type of educational materials that are still needed, strengthen the relationship between the participating agencies, and allow NIEHS to better prioritize future research efforts.

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