
Introduction

On November 23, 2007 the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) released a Notice ([NOT-ES-08-002](#)) soliciting feedback from the public, environmental health researchers, healthcare professionals, educators, policy makers and others with a vested interest in the effects of environmental exposures on public health. This Request for Information (RFI) was directed toward the establishment of a 5-10 year plan for a new, unified program titled, “Partnerships for Environmental Public Health” (PEPH) to promote and advance partnerships for environmental public health. NIEHS encouraged “out of the box, innovative, visionary” ideas and comments to help revitalize, stimulate and shape NIEHS activities in environmental public health.

The RFI was disseminated through a variety of electronic channels. E-mail lists were the primary avenue for getting the word out on this RFI. In addition, there was a direct link to the RFI from the NIEHS homepage (www.niehs.nih.gov).

NIEHS accepted responses to the RFI until the end of January 2008. NIEHS received over 120 responses from diverse groups across the U.S. including advocates, policy makers, healthcare professionals, researchers, public health professionals, urban planners, educators, and representatives of professional societies and federal agencies.

In the RFI, people were asked to respond to the following questions:

1. What are your needs to address the effects of environmental exposures on public health?
2. Where are the new and/or best opportunities for NIEHS to be engaged in the following areas? What are the roadblocks? (2.A) Development of educational and outreach materials for the following audiences: lay public, students and teachers, healthcare professionals, researchers, policy makers, other groups (2.B) Research: such as - Biomedical research (population-based, intervention, prevention, translational, behavioral), Evaluation research (methods for evaluating public health and science education activities), Communication/Dissemination research (Health literacy strategies), and Other research
3. What are the highest priority tools or resources needed to facilitate the opportunities or overcome the challenges you identified in Question 2?
4. What scientific themes, exposures, health outcomes, or other issues are most important to address in this program? What issues should NOT be addressed?
5. What specific research approaches (existing and novel) should be a part of this broad-based program?
6. What new partnerships need to be developed for the PEPH Program? How can existing partnerships be strengthened?
7. To help us better understand your perspective, please mark the following set of boxes that best describe you. This information will only be used for the purposes of organizing the data and will not be used for other reasons.
 - A NIEHS/NIH grantee
 - A partner on an NIEHS-funded project
 - From the following Audience:
 - Lay Public
 - EHS Researcher
 - Healthcare professional
 - Policymaker
 - Other: _____

Methodology

The following series of documents is the compilation of all the responses to the RFI. Responses arrived in a variety of formats: e-mail, interactive .pdf form, MS Word documents, regular .pdf documents, letters, and faxes. We copied and pasted all responses into a spreadsheet for analysis purposes. As we entered each response into the master spreadsheet, we assigned it a Response Number. During this process, we did not change the content of the documents; however, formatting, in some instances, was lost. If we found typos, we fixed them. We did not include the names of the respondents in the spreadsheet.

We have organized the following series of documents by Question rather than by respondents. We chose to organize the information this way to help readers more easily see the variety of responses to each question. The individual responses are clearly identified by a consistent, unique number and separated by a line. Not everyone responded to each question. Where individuals did not respond to a question, the response number will be listed, followed by a blank.

We created the following series of documents by performing a “Mail Merge” from the spreadsheet into an MS Word document, and then converting that document into an Adobe .pdf document. We analyzed all .pdf documents to insure they are section 508 compliant.

The series of documents are:

1. Demographics
This document provides readers with context for the respondents who completed Question 7 of the RFI.
2. Question 1: What are your Needs?
3. Question 2A: Opportunities and Roadblocks for the development of educational and outreach materials?
4. Question 2B: Opportunities and Roadblocks for research: Biomedical research, evaluation research, communication/dissemination research, and other research
5. Question 3: Highest priority tools and resources?
6. Question 4: Important scientific themes, exposures, health outcomes, or other issues?
7. Question 5: What research approaches should be a part of the program?
8. Question 6: What new partnerships need to be developed?

Feedback

If you have questions, comments or concerns about this series of documents, please contact:

Liam R. O’Fallon
(email) ofallon@niehs.nih.gov
In the SUBJECT line of e-mail correspondence, please write, “PEPH RFI”
(phone) 919.541.7733