

Geographic and Contextual Influences on Energy Balance-Related Health Behaviors (R01/R21)

For the full text of these PAs, visit:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-192.html> (R01)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-193.html> (R21)

Overview

The objective of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to encourage grant applications that propose hypothesis-driven projects exploring associations between the built environment, other contextual features of where people of all ages live and work, and health behaviors related to energy balance. These projects should use population level data from health surveys and other large health studies. It is expected that the proposed projects will be designed to add/include contextual variables at diverse levels of geographic aggregation to such studies on behaviors that affect individual energy balance and thereby health. Subsequent analyses should be aimed at understanding the relative importance of the related health behaviors.

Grant applications will be expected to use population level data from diverse sources for: 1) generation and addition of new geographic information system (GIS) data layers for analysis of contextual variables such as measures of the built and natural environments to existing studies; 2) analyses of existing confidential geographic-based data either on site, at survey data centers, or other projected sites; and/or 3) merging multiple health-related data resources to allow new analyses of associations between contextual variables and energy balance-related health behaviors.

Mechanisms of Support

The R01 and R21 award mechanisms will be supported by this funding opportunity. The total project period for applications using the R01 award mechanism may not exceed 5 years; the dollar amount is unlimited but needs to reflect the needs of the proposed project. R01 applications can be renewed by competing for additional project periods. The

R21 award mechanism may not exceed 2 years; direct costs are limited to \$275,000 over a two-year period, with no more than \$200,000 in direct costs allowed in any single year. The R21 application is not renewable.

Research Objectives

All projects proposed in response to this FOA must focus on exploring the influence of neighborhood characteristics and contextual variables on energy balance-related health behaviors such as diet and physical activity. Applications for projects that include wide-ranging conceptualizations of 'environment' as a mediator and moderator of health outcomes, including those that address interactions between social, psychological, and built environmental variables are encouraged.

Research topics may include, but are not limited to, the following examples:

- Characterize associations between the built environment and physical activity. Explore how these associations are moderated by demographic factors, particularly age, gender, race/ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.
- Explore the differential influences of the built environment and geographic variables on physical activity and food behavior of individuals with disabilities.
- Analyze the relative strength of associations between physical activity and several aspects of the built environment, including neighborhood, socioeconomic status, street connectivity, and land use mix.
- Examine associations between the availability/geographical distribution of food outlets (such as supermarkets/convenience stores, restaurants, bodegas, farmers markets, etc.) and dietary habits of residents.
- Explore how a person's age modulates associations between environmental variables and physical activity or diet.

- Incorporate weather-related variables into studies of energy balance-related behavior.
- Examine the variability of specific environmental indices at multiple spatial scales, and how these indices are associated with determinants of energy balance.
- Apply advances from the GIS and Informatics community to the spatial analysis of energy balance-related health behaviors.
- Explore new data sources that have not been used in public health research concerning energy balance-related health behaviors.
- Incorporate systems thinking-based approaches into the analysis of associations between the environment and energy balance-related health behaviors.
- Examine whether the built environment or other contextual variables are associated with successful weight loss or weight maintenance in observational or intervention studies.

Eligibility Requirements

Diverse educational, public, private, and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Refer to the full text of the PAs for additional details.

Review

Applications will be assigned to the NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) on the basis of established Public Health Service (PHS) referral guidelines. Appropriate scientific review groups convened in accordance with the standard NIH peer review procedures will evaluate applications for scientific and technical merit.

Further Assistance

GrantsInfo

Telephone: (301) 435-0714
Email: GrantsInfo@od.nih.gov

Grant Writing Tip Sheets

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/grant_tips.htm

Application Submission Dates

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/submissionschedule.htm>

Inquiries

David Berrigan, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Applied Research Program
Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences

National Cancer Institute

6130 Executive Boulevard, EPN Room 4010,
MSC 7344
Bethesda, MD 20892-7344
Telephone: (301) 451-4301
Fax: (301) 435-3710
Email: berrigad@mail.nih.gov

Paul Cotton, Ph.D.

National Institute of Nursing Research

6701 Democracy Boulevard, One Democracy
Plaza, Room 710, MSC 4870
Bethesda, MD 20892-7344
Telephone: (301) 402-6423
Fax: (301) 451-5453
Email: cottonp@mail.nih.gov

Charlotte A. Pratt, Ph.D.

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

6701 Rockledge Drive, Two Rockledge Center,
Room 10118, MSC 7936
Bethesda, MD 20892-7344
Telephone: (301) 435-0382
Fax: (301) 435-3710
Email: prattc@mail.nih.gov

Terry T.-K. Huang, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

6100 Executive Boulevard, Room 4B11,
MSC 7510
Bethesda, MD 20892-7510
Telephone: (301) 594-1846
Fax: (301) 480-9791
Email: huangter@mail.nih.gov

Crystal Wolfrey

Office of Grants Administration National Cancer Institute

6120 Executive Boulevard, EPS Suite 243,
MSC 7150
Bethesda, MD 20892-7150
Telephone: (301) 496-8634
Fax: (301) 496-8601
Email: wolfreyc@mail.nih.gov