Integrating Human Health & Well-Being with Ecosystem Services RfA

https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/integrating-human-health-and-well-being-ecosystem-services

Deadline to Apply: April 21, 2016

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Outline

- Impetus for RFA

- Overview of RFA and Research Areas

- Peer Review Criteria

- Programmatic Review Considerations

- Tips for Grants.gov

- Questions & Answers
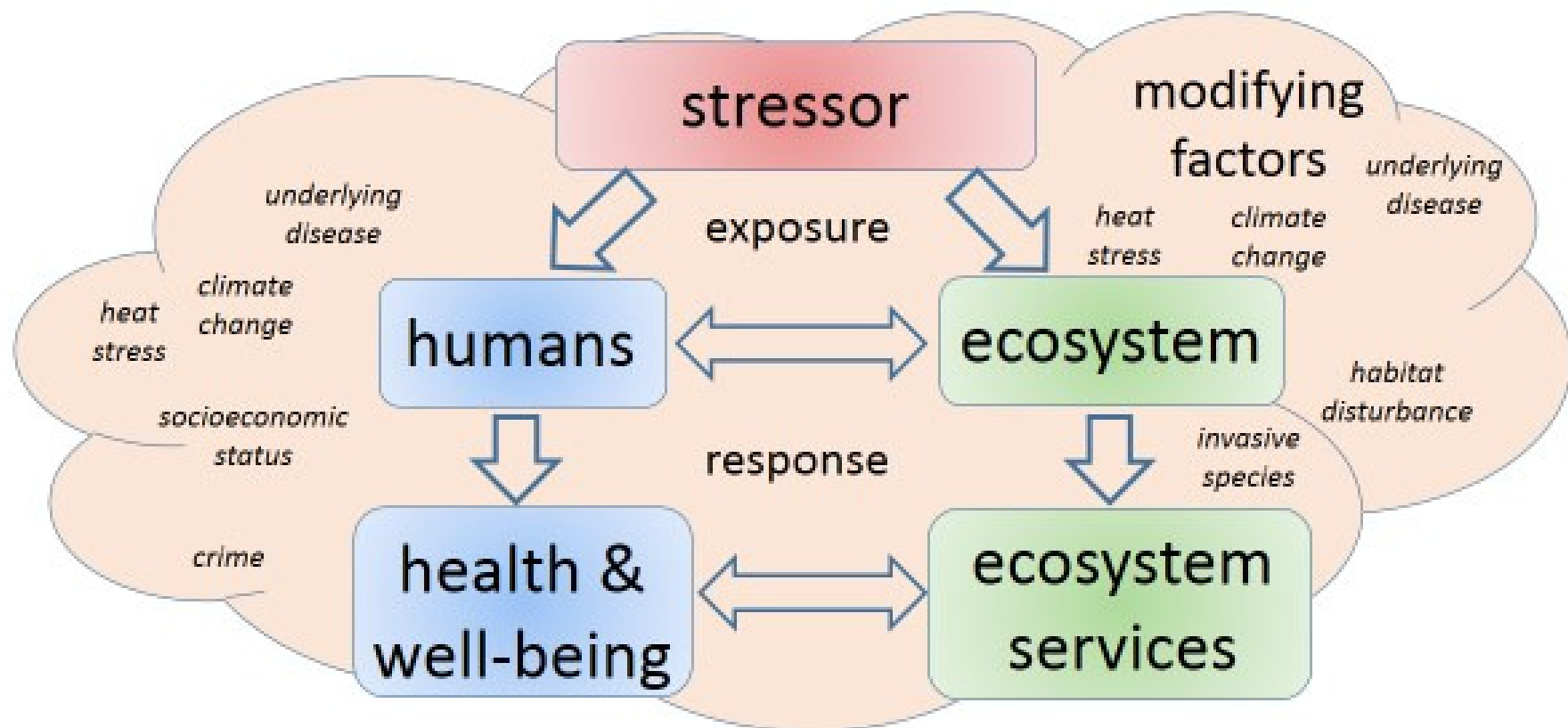

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Meeting the Challenge Ahead:

1. Making a Visible Difference in Communities across the Country
2. Addressing Climate Change and Improving Air Quality
3. Protecting Water
4. Working Toward a Sustainable Future

- Also aligned with Sustainable Healthy Communities Goal 3: Cleaning Up Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development, Objective 3.1: Promote Sustainable and Livable Communities

RFA Goals

- Collaborative, community-based research to better understand how ecosystems support human health and well-being

- Inform decision making and management practices
- Integrate environmental, societal and economic information
- Better manage multiple stressors and impacts on humans and ecosystems
- Ultimate goal: Help communities achieve their own objectives

Example Conceptual Model: Stressor, Ecosystem Services and Human Health and Well-Being

Three Research Questions

- What are the factors that determine success or failure, when using existing data sources on environmental pollution, ecosystem services and community health and well-being, to understand the impacts of multiple stressors?

- What are the factors that influence whether and how transparent decision making processes are developed and used to identify the most important stakeholders and stressors, evaluate management strategies and set and prioritize goals?

- What are the most effective methods for tracking progress and ensuring accountability towards mitigating and reducing adverse impacts to ecosystems and human health and well-being at the community level?

Expected Outputs:

- Data & info that enables communities understand and manage the impact of multiple stressors on human health and ecosystems, e.g.,
  - Journal articles, websites, periodic reports, presentations
- Proposed activities to help states, tribes, and municipalities can use to
  - develop assessments and management practices, inform decision-making, meet environmental and health goals

Examples:

- Best practices for engaging communities and diverse partners, including not just "How?" but "How much?" and "When?"
- Best practices for using disparate types of data, particularly for integrating human health and ecological impacts.

Expected Outcomes:

- Fewer adverse impacts to human health and ecosystems
- Greater recognition that *all* ecosystems provide services
- Better understanding of what forces lead to what impacts

Examples:

- Greater use of local data in community-level decisions to reduce pollutant exposure
- Degraded habitat cleaned up *and* providing ecosystem services

Peer Review

I. Research Merits

II. Responsiveness

III. Project Management

IV. Other Factors

Programmatic Review

- Relevance to EPA research priorities

- Livability principles

- Past performance

Using Grants.gov

Electronic Submissions

- Get your Grants.gov account early

- DUNS and SAM Registration (is registration active?)

- Check all content before you "Save and Submit"

- Plan to submit ahead of the deadline Don't wait until the last minute!

Troubleshooting Grants.gov

- Forgot a section or found an error? -> resubmit
- Problems:
  - Adobe software versions: http://epa.gov/ncer/rfa/forms/
  - Zip Code +4
- Call the Help Desk   1-800-518-4726
- Get an incident number
- Write an email and explain ASAP

Frequently Asked Questions

- Eligibility
- Early-career vs. regular awards
- Authority & Regulations
- Existing data
- Community engagement
- International projects

Useful Links

- Partnerships and collaborations
http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/solicitation_provisions.htm#Contracts_subawards

- Multiple-Investigator applications
http://rbm.nih.gov/toolkit.htm

- For private firms, refer to www.sbir.gov

- SAM (System for Award Management)
https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/

- DUNS - http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform

Questions?

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