Pre-application Webinar for ECHO Pregnancy Cohort Study Sites (UG3/UH3)
RFA-OD-22-017

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Agenda

• ECHO Overview
• ECHO Pregnancy Cohort Study Sites (UG3/UH3) RFA-OD-22-017
  • Section I. Funding Opportunity Description
  • Section II. Award Information
  • Section III. Eligibility
  • Section IV. Application and Submission Information
  • Section V. Application Review Information
  • Section VI. Award Administration Information
• Key Dates
• Questions
Pre-Application Webinar Purpose

• Familiarize the potential applicant with established NIH guidelines and criteria for review;

• Discuss the areas of NIH programmatic emphasis;

• Facilitate the submission of a well-organized application
Essential Information

• It is essential that applicants for this Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA) familiarize themselves with the companion FOAs, including the goals and requirements for the Cohort Study Sites, Coordinating Center, Data Analysis Center, Measurement Core, and Laboratory Core and how they function together within the ECHO Cohort consortium.

• Read the FOAs carefully. The application instructions and review criteria are aligned with each other, and with the FOA goals, and will be the basis for peer review and programmatic funding decisions.

• All required information is contained in the FOAs. The recorded webinars provide a summary but do not substitute for the FOAs.
FOA Presentations

See Presentations for each ECHO FOA on the NIH ECHO website:

1. ECHO Overview
2. Pregnancy Cohort Study Sites (UG3/UH3) RFA-OD-22-017
3. Limited Competition: Pregnancy and Pediatric Cohort Study Sites (UG3/UH3) RFA-OD-22-018
4. Limited Competition: Cohort Study Sites for Pediatric Follow Up (UG3/UH3) RFA-OD-22-019
5. Laboratory Core (U24) RFA-OD-22-016
6. Measurement Core (U24) RFA-OD-22-020
7. Coordinating Center (U2C) RFA-OD-22-021
8. Data Analysis Center (U24) RFA-OD-22-022
ECHO Overview – please view the ECHO overview webinar
ECHO Overview

Extend and expand the ECHO Cohort in its next phase (FY2023-2029) to further investigate the roles of a broad range of early exposures from society to biology, including the preconception period, on ECHO’s five key child health outcomes among diverse populations.
Extend and Expand ECHO Cohort

• Extend reach by following nearly 40,000 existing ECHO children and families

• Expand to include 20,000 women and partners recruited during pregnancy with follow-up of their children
  – Preconception pilot of 10,000 couples at moderate to high probability of subsequent pregnancy

• Combined strategies yield large, diverse cohort from preconception through adolescence
Key Features of ECHO Cohort Consortium

- Team science
  - Mutual respect, cooperation, and collaboration with all consortium members
- Single IRB
- Standardized implementation of ECHO Cohort Protocol (please refer to: Draft ECHO Cohort Data and Biospecimen Collection Protocol)
- Centralized data capture, e.g., REDCap Central
- No Cohort Study Site-specific analyses or science
- Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
ECHO Pregnancy Cohort Study Sites (UG3/UH3) RFA-OD-22-017
Section I: Pregnancy Cohort Study Sites

Objectives

1. Lead collaborative ECHO Cohort science
2. Recruit new pregnant participants from diverse populations, their resulting offspring, and, if available, the conceiving partner
3. Develop and implement the ECHO Cohort Preconception Pilot Study
4. Implement the ECHO Cohort Data and Biospecimen Collection Protocol using the ECHO Cohort consortium’s central data capture system, e.g., REDCap Central.
Section I: Cohort Study Site

• ECHO Cohort Study Site - an institution at which participant recruitment and follow up takes place at one or multiple locations, e.g., the Cohort Study Site could be a medical system with recruitment taking place at its clinics.

  – If an applicant includes more than one Cohort Study Site in their application, they must justify the multi-site structure and include a project management plan.
Section I: UG3/UH3 Mechanism

• Cooperative Agreement: A support mechanism used when there will be substantial Federal scientific or programmatic involvement.

• UG3/UH3 – milestone driven, involves 2 phases
  – UG3 - The initial milestone-driven developmental phase will last for up to 2 years
  – Award of the UG3 does not guarantee subsequent UH3 funding.
  – NIH ECHO Program staff will administratively review the extent to which each Cohort Study Site meets the criteria for success during the UG3 phase and make final decisions based upon funding availability and Cohort Study Site progress.

  – UH3 – Second phase, lasts five years
Section I: UG3 Criteria for Transitioning to UH3

• Recruit new pregnant and preconception participants, their resulting offspring, and, if available, the conceiving partner
• Implement the ECHO Cohort Protocol to collect requisite data and biospecimens, and
• Produce and disseminate ECHO Cohort science
Section I: UH3

• Funding for the UH3 phase is contingent on successfully meeting the milestones in the UG3 phase.
• Focus on how the applicant will expand
  – development, production, and dissemination of ECHO Cohort science,
  – continue high recruitment and retention rates,
  – continue fidelity to the ECHO Cohort Protocol to collect requisite data and biospecimens
Propose to specialize in at least one exposure area and at least one outcome area.

- Specialized exposure areas include: a) Physical & Chemical, e.g., air pollution and household chemicals b) Lifestyle, e.g., nutrition, sleep, and physical activity; or c) Psychosocial, e.g., stress, social support, and discrimination.
- Specialized outcome areas include: pre-, peri- and postnatal, upper and lower airways, obesity, neurodevelopment, and positive health.
Section I: Draft ECHO Cohort Protocol v3.0
https://dcricollab.dcri.duke.edu/sites/echomaterials/SitePages/Home.aspx

• Aim 2 should incorporate question(s) that leverage proposed specialized exposure and/or specialized outcome areas

• Applicants may choose to propose specialized data elements to support those specific aims.

• Core data element – data element or biospecimen that every Cohort Study Site will collect on every participant. For the purposes of applying to this FOA, consider all elements in the ECHO Draft Protocol v3.0 core.

• Specialized data element - more frequent or more detailed elements than the Core elements. The Steering Committee may add specialized elements to the ECHO Protocol during the UG3 phase.
https://echochildren.org/

Learning what affects child health

The goal of the Environmental influences on Child Health outcomes (ECHO) Program is to understand the effects of a broad range of early environmental influences on child health and development. ECHO is dedicated to both learning what factors affect child health and finding ways to enhance it.

The ECHO Program studies five areas of health. These are:

- Educational Resources
- Information For Researchers
- Information For Partnerships
- About ECHO Research
- Publications And Research Resources

ECHO’s Mission

To enhance the health of children for generations to come.

Chemical Exposures Among Pregnant Women

ECHO study finds rising levels of certain chemicals, especially replacement chemicals

Access The Article

NIH ECHO PROGRAM

Coordinating Center

Coordinating Center

National Institutes of Health

Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO)
https://dcricollab.dcri.duke.edu/sites/echomaterials/SitePages/Home.aspx
Section I: Funding Opportunity Description

Plans for Enhancing Diversity

• Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (PEDP):
  – One-page summary of strategies to advance the scientific and technical merit of the project through expanded inclusivity.
  – Should provide a holistic and integrated view of how enhancing diverse perspectives is viewed and supported throughout the application.
  – Will be evaluated according to multiple review criteria (Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, and Environment), and can incorporate elements with relevance to any of these criteria

• For further guidance, FAQs, key elements, and examples, see:
  https://braininitiative.nih.gov/about/plan-enhancing-diverse-perspectives-pedp

• NIH will withdraw applications lacking a PEDP attachment without review
Section II: Award Information

• Cooperative Agreement: A support mechanism used when there will be substantial Federal scientific or programmatic involvement.

• Application Types Allowed: New

• Applicant PIs may not submit both an application to this ECHO Cohort Study Site FOA (RFA-OD-22-017) and an application to an ECHO Core or Center FOA (RFA-OD-22-016, RFA-OD-22-020, RFA-OD-22-021, and RFA-OD-22-022).
Section II: Award Information

• NIH intends to fund an estimate of 50 Cohort Study Site awards corresponding to a total of up to $117,000,000 for fiscal year 2023 across RFA-OD-22-017, RFA-OD-22-018, and RFA-OD-22-019. Future year amounts will depend on annual appropriations.

• Application budgets are not limited but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project.

• The project period is 7 years; the proposed project is 2 years for the first phase (UG3) and 5 years for the second phase (UH3).
Section III: Eligibility Information

• Eligible Organizations:
  – Higher Education Institutions
  – Nonprofits Other Than Institutions of Higher Education
  – For-Profit Organizations
  – Local Governments
  – Federal Governments

• Non-domestic (non-U.S.) Entities (Foreign Institutions) are not eligible to apply.

• Non-domestic (non-U.S.) components of U.S. Organizations are not eligible to apply.

• Foreign components, as defined in the NIH Grants Policy Statement, are allowed.

• Applicant organizations may submit more than one application, provided that each application is scientifically distinct.
Section IV: Application and Submission Information

Letter of Intent

• Letter of Intent Due Date: October 21, 2022

• Information to include:
  – Descriptive title of proposed activity
  – Name(s), address(es), and telephone number(s) of the PD(s)/PI(s)
  – Names of other key personnel
  – Participating institution(s)
  – Number and title of this funding opportunity

• Although a letter of intent is not required, is not binding, and does not enter into the review of a subsequent application, the information that it contains allows IC staff to estimate the potential review workload and plan the review.

• Send the letter of intent to:
  – S. Sonia Arteaga, PhD
  – Email: Sonia.Arteaga@nih.gov
Section IV: Application and Submission Information

Plans for Enhancing Diversity

• Include in an “Other Attachment” a “Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives”
  – One-page summary of strategies to advance the scientific and technical merit of the project through expanded inclusivity.
  – Should provide a holistic and integrated view of how enhancing diverse perspectives is viewed and supported throughout the application.
  – Will be evaluated according to multiple review criteria (Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, and Environment), and can incorporate elements with relevance to any of these criteria.

• For further guidance, FAQs, key elements, and examples, see: https://braininitiative.nih.gov/about/plan-enhancing-diverse-perspectives-pedp

• NIH will withdraw applications lacking a PEDP attachment without review.
Section IV: Budget

Category 1 – yearly consistent budget

- no more than $375,000 in direct cost per year to support: academic activities, including analysis proposal and manuscript development, ECHO committee work, mentoring, and scientific leadership

- PD(s)/PI(s) must have a minimum of 2.4 person months (20%) per year

- Support for travel to Bethesda MD 2x a year
Section IV: Budget

Category 2 – proportional to number of study participants in proposed plan

– Pregnancy - $1500 per visits, at least two visits during pregnancy including the 1st visit before 20 weeks of completed gestation
  - Preconception (interval between first ECHO pregnancy and subsequent ECHO pregnancy) – direct costs of up to $750 per visit for up to three visits
– Perinatal – direct costs of up to $1,000 for one visit
– Infants – direct costs of up to $1,500 per visit for a total of two visits
– For children 12 months or older, direct costs of up to $750 per visit for one visit per year.
Section IV: Budget

• **Start-up Costs** – up to $100,000

• Applicants may include allowable costs associated with PEDP implementation (as outlined in the Grants Policy Statement section 7: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_7/7.1_general.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_7/7.1_general.htm)).
Section IV: Research Plan (30 page limit)
Study Aims

• Aim 1 - incorporate research question(s) that leverage ECHO Cohort Protocol core data elements

• Aim 2 - incorporate question(s) that leverage proposed specialized exposure and/or specialized outcome areas

• Aim 3 - relate to how the ECHO Cohort Study Site will maximize retention of existing participants and ensure adequate recruitment of new pregnant/preconception participants, with emphasis on diversity, and implement the ECHO Cohort Protocol with high fidelity

• Aim 4 - an exploratory aim, incorporate research questions related to preconception exposures and one or more ECHO outcomes
Section IV: Research Plan UG3 (30 page limit)

• UG3 – describe plans for:
  – Using the ECHO Cohort Consortium’s central data capture system
  – Using the ECHO Cohort consortium's sIRB
  – Implementing the ECHO Cohort Protocol
  – Publishing ECHO Cohort publications
  – Addressing NIH and ECHO data sharing and use policies
  – Implementing a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility perspective—consistent with the PEDP
  – Leading and participating in ECHO committees and working groups
Section IV: Research Plan (30 page limit)
UG3 (continued)

• UG3 – describe plans for:
  – Recruiting pregnant participants beginning before 20 weeks of completed gestation
  – Enrolling the resulting offspring from pregnant participants for follow up in the ECHO Cohort
  – Following up these child participants, including ability to achieve high retention rates.
  – Recruiting the conceiving partner if available.
Section IV: Research Plan (30 page limit)
UG3 (continued)

• UG3 – describe plans for:
  – Determining moderate to high likelihood of a subsequent pregnancy from recruited pregnant ECHO Cohort participants
  – Developing the preconception phase of the ECHO Cohort Protocol within the first year of the funding period
  – Enrolling and following preconception participants for up to three study visits
  – Experience and expertise of staff with recruiting biological parents prior to pregnancy into research studies
  – Implementing the preconception phase of the ECHO Cohort Protocol
Section IV: Research Plan (30 page limit)  

UH3

Applicants should describe how they will continue and intensify activities from the UG3 phase, including

- Retaining participants with special emphasis of diverse populations
- Recruiting new pregnant participants
- Recruiting participants at moderate to high likelihood of a subsequent pregnancy into the preconception pilot
- Enrolling children into the ECHO Cohort Protocol
- Recruiting conceiving partner if available
- Completing collection of high-quality data and biospecimens on all participants
- Publishing ECHO Cohort manuscripts
- Leading and participating in ECHO committees and working groups
Section V. Application Review Information

• Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by an appropriate Scientific Review Group convened by Center for Scientific Review including the general and ‘Specific to this FOA’ review criteria described in the FOA.

• NIH will consider the following in making funding decisions:
  – Scientific and technical merit of the proposed project as determined by scientific peer review.
  – Availability of funds.
  – Relevance of the proposed project to program priorities, including the PEDP.
Section VI: Award Administration Information

Pay attention to Cooperative Agreement Terms and Conditions described in Section VI:

- PD(s)/PI(s) responsibilities
- NIH staff programmatic involvement
- Areas of joint responsibility
Key Dates

• Letter of Intent Due Date: October 21, 2022
• Earliest Submission Date: October 21, 2022
• Application Due Date: November 21, 2022
• Scientific Merit Review: February 2023
• Advisory Council Review: May 2023
• Earliest Estimated Award Date: August 1, 2023
• Earliest Estimated Start Date: September 1, 2023
Questions

• Questions can be sent to:
  – Sonia.Arteaga@nih.gov
  – NIHKidsandEnvironment@od.nih.gov
  – Put RFA number in the subject line

• NIH will answer submitted questions in the FAQs on the NIH ECHO website: NIH ECHO Funding Opportunity Announcements
Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes

A program supported by the NIH in the NIH Office of the Director