

October 30, 2018

RE: Children’s Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers

Dear Member of Congress:

Our nation’s Children’s Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers provide critical research to understand how the environment affects children’s health. This work has led to improved policies that help to reduce health risks and improve the quality of life for children and the public, as detailed in the attached report.

The importance of this work cannot be overstated, which is why we wanted to alert you to our concern that EPA currently is not providing funds through the National Center for Environmental Research (NCER) Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grant program to continue investing in this effort. These Centers have ongoing studies providing crucial data on children’s health with no clear path forward:

Center	Location
Center for Childhood Asthma in the Urban Environment (CCAUE)	Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
Center for Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention	University of California, Davis
Center for Children' Health, the Environment, the Microbiome, and Metabolomics (C-CHEM2)	Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia
Center for Integrative Research on Childhood Leukemia and the Environment (CIRCLE) and UC Berkeley/Stanford Children’s Environmental Health Center	University of California, Berkeley
Center for Research on Early Childhood Exposure and Development in Puerto Rico (CRECE)	Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts
Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Center at Dartmouth	Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire
Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health	Columbia University Health Sciences, New York, New York
Neurodevelopment and Improving Children’s Health following Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) exposure (NICHES)	Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
Southern California Children’s Environmental Health Center (SC-CEHC)	University of Southern California (Los Angeles)
The UCSF Pregnancy Exposures to Environmental Chemicals (PEEC) Children’s Center	University of California, San Francisco
The University of Illinois Children's Environmental Health Research Center	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
University of Michigan Children's Environmental Health Center	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

By this point, a new RFA (Request for Applications) should have been submitted by EPA to continue funding the Children’s Environmental Health Centers program. The expertise and experience of the independent scientists leading and staffing these centers is not easily replaced.

Science is at the core of EPA's mission, and the research supported through these EPA and NIEHS grants contributes significantly to the foundation of knowledge that informs and supports the Agency's ability to protect the public. Examples of previous Children's Environmental Health Research Center science in action includes understanding that no level of lead exposure is safe for children; how fetal brain development is impaired by air pollution; and how organophosphate pesticides affect the health of farmworker children.

We hope you will engage in discussions with EPA leadership regarding their strategic direction and funding priorities, and we urge you to ensure that the EPA maintains its longtime commitment to children's health.

Sincerely,

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