



To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)  
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: NIH, Outstanding New Environmental Scientist (ONES) Award (R01 Clinical Trial Optional) (RFA-ES-21-001)

Date: 11/28/2022

Dear UNM Researchers,

The **NIH Outstanding New Environmental Scientist (ONES) Award** is designed to identify the best new biomedical investigators across the spectrum of science supported by the NIEHS (including basic mechanistic, clinical, and population-based researchers) and facilitate their establishing a vibrant, independent research program in the environmental health sciences. The ONES program is specifically targeted to Early Stage Investigators<sup>1</sup> and program goals include career promotion as well as the scientific project proposed. Applications for the ONES program differ from standard R01 applications in that applicants must describe plans for the active participation of an external advisory committee to provide consultation and feedback on the research and career guidance, commitment by the institution to actively support the research program development of the Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI), and a plan for career enhancement which will provide a strong foundation for future research endeavors.

Research projects proposed in response to this FOA will be expected to have a defined impact on the environmental health sciences and be responsive to both the mission of the NIH and, specifically, to the mission of the NIEHS and the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan: Advancing Science, Improving Health: A Plan for Environmental Health Sciences Research. This plan sets out a set of strategic themes and strategic goals that have been identified as priority areas for the field of environmental health sciences. These reflect both the mission of the NIEHS, which is to discover how the environment affects people in order to promote healthier lives, and the goal to conduct and support the very best environmental health sciences research in alignment with real-world public health needs, and to translate science findings into knowledge that can inform real-life individual and public health outcomes.

Applications submitted in response to this FOA must have a research focus on exposure-health related responses from environmental agents within the mission interest of the NIEHS. Examples of environmental agents which are considered of primary interest for NIEHS include but are not limited to: industrial chemicals or manufacturing byproducts, metals, pesticides, herbicides, air pollutants and other inhaled toxicants, particulates or fibers, fungal, and bacterial or biologically derived toxins. NIEHS is also interested in studies of health disparities and interventions which focus on how these environmental exposures interact with social determinants of health (e.g., age, gender, education, race, and income), both in populations and in individuals.

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<sup>1</sup> NIH defines an Early Stage Investigator as: “A Program Director / Principal Investigator (PD/PI) who has completed their terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, whichever date is later, within the past 10 years and who has not previously competed successfully as PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award.”

The budget for direct costs is composed of two elements - research direct costs and career enhancement costs. For most applications, the budget for research direct costs should be limited to \$250,000 per year. With strong justification, research projects which have inherently higher costs may request direct costs of up to \$400,000 per year. Career enhancement direct costs are limited to \$250,000 direct costs, which can be distributed over the 5-year award period. Note: the total direct cost budget (research plus career enhancement) may not exceed \$475,000 in any year of the award. More details can be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-21-001.html>. The deadline for submitting full proposals to the agency is **February 24, 2023**.

This is a limited competition. **Each institution is limited to ONE application per school or college.** If you are interested in applying to this program, please submit a Statement of Interest with a tentative project title and a brief description (200 words) by **NOON on December 9, 2022** via UNM's [InfoReady Review Portal](#). Based on the number of responses received, the Limited Competitions Management Team may announce a call for pre-proposals.

Should you have any questions please contact [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu).

*If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at [HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu](mailto:HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu) for more information.*