

CEET Pilot Project Program | Call for Applications

Awards up to \$50,000

The [Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology \(CEET\)](#) Pilot Project Program aims to fund new directions in Environmental Health Science to advance center members' research, support junior faculty careers, attract new investigators into the field, and promote community-engaged research. The CEET is currently accepting applications for two types of awards. The anticipated period of performance for projects awarded under this announcement is a six or 12-month project period, as selected by the applicant in their proposal. Applicants must specify their requested project duration in their application.

Focused Research Award

Applications related to the four Thematic Areas of the CEET: Air Pollution & Lung Health | Environmental Exposures & Cancer | Windows-of-Susceptibility | Environmental Neuroscience

Opportunity Award

Applications proposing innovative research and technologies in environmental health sciences.

Eligibility

- Any standing or research faculty from any University of Pennsylvania School may apply.
- No salary support for the faculty member is allowable.
- Preference will be given to applications likely to lead to grant funding from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).
- Preference will be given to first-time applicants.
- Preference will be given to projects that utilize one or more of CEET's Cores:

[Community Engagement Core](#)

[Translational Research Support Core](#)

[Biomolecular Mass Spectrometry Core](#)

[Environmental Health Informatics Core](#)

The CEET Cores offer technical and research support to Center investigators and Pilot Project awardees. A wide range of capabilities, including biostatistical support, analytical sample preparation/processing, and measurements of xenobiotics and their metabolites, is available. Early discussion with Core Directors is strongly encouraged to improve study design. If their Core is to be utilized, Core Directors should be contacted to provide a Letter of Support as a part of the application.

- Applications proposing community-engaged research must include a Letter of Sponsorship from the Director of the Community Engagement Core **AND** a Letter of Support from the participating community group/partner.
- The proposed research cannot be funded by an external funding agency.

Review Process, Deadlines, and Notifications

All applications will be sent out for peer review to experts in the field, and the CEET Executive Committee will then meet to select the awardees. Each application will be scored using the NIH scoring system. Applicants will receive a decision letter and a copy of the critique and scores.

	Application Deadline	Award Notification	Award Start Date	Award End Date
6-month award	November 14, 2025	November 28, 2025	December 1, 2025	May 31, 2026
12-month award	January 16, 2026	March 6, 2026	June 1, 2026	May 31, 2027

Funding/Reporting Requirements

- The period of funding is for a duration of 6 or 12 months, with defined start and end dates:
 - **6-month award: December 1, 2025-May 31, 2026**
 - **12-month award: June 1, 2026-May 31, 2027**

- Applicants must clearly state their intention to pursue either a 6-month or a 12-month project period. The proposed scope of work, budget, and timeline should be commensurate with the selected duration.
- Funding is contingent upon IRB (human subjects) and/or IACUC approval (animals).
- Awardees must acknowledge the NIEHS P30 grant that supports the CEET (P30 ES013508) in all publications and presentations of this work, present their findings at a CEET Seminar during or shortly after the funding period ends, and provide timely reports of progress/outcomes for up to 5 years after the end of the funding period.

Instructions and Format for Submission

- All proposals must be submitted electronically, as a single PDF, via the [CEET Pilot Project Application Form](#).
- Format for Proposal Submission:
 1. Project Abstract – A summary of the project (no more than 300 words)
 2. Current NIH Biosketch for the PI(s) and other co-investigators
 3. *Introduction (For Revised Applications Only)* – include a 1-page response to the previous critique
 4. Specific Aims (1 page)
 5. Research Strategy (not to exceed 6 pages)
 - Significance – Describe the importance of the problem or critical barrier that the project addresses in Environmental Health Sciences, and explain how the project will improve community needs, scientific knowledge, technical capability, or clinical practice if the proposed aims are achieved.
 - Innovation – Describe how the proposed research seeks to shift research practice paradigms and how any methodologies or theoretical concepts that are being developed or used in the project may advance Environmental Health Sciences.
 - Approach – Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish specific aims, including how data will be collected. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks of success.
 6. Project Timeline (1 page) – A proposed timeline of study performance should be included, identifying specific tasks and milestones in project progress for the period of performance.
 7. Future Plans (1 page) – A brief outline of how the results from the pilot study will enable the submission of a subsequent NIEHS/NIH grant and a detailed plan for this subsequent grant submission.
 8. List of Current & Pending Grant Support
 9. References
 10. Budget – An NIH-style budget table of personnel, equipment, supplies, and other estimated costs to perform the proposed project. Unallowable expenses: Faculty salaries, travel expenses, tuition for graduate students, and publication charges.
 11. Budget Justification – A detailed explanation and justification of the funding request.
 12. IRB and/or IACUC status and documentation – All human subject and animal protocols must be approved before the funding start date. No funds will be released until these approvals have been documented.
 13. Data Management and Sharing Plan (1 page)

Contact

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