Purpose: The purpose of CEHS rapid response seed funding is to provide financial and technical assistance to eligible investigators needing short term funding to generate preliminary data that will lead to new R-series NIH grant proposals. Applications will be received on an on-going basis as long as funds are available. Applications from PIs with recently reviewed NIH applications for which additional preliminary data are needed are particularly encouraged to apply. Successful applications will clearly articulate specific plans for NIH/NIEHS applications. Regardless of project start date, all projects must be completed by March 31, 2022. Funding for CEHS pilot grants is made possible by support from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS): P30ES010126.

Eligibility: Eligible PIs must hold a UNC faculty appointment or other appointment authorized to serve as PI on an externally sponsored research project. Limit one application per PI per CEHS award cycle (2021-2026).

CEHS research focus areas
Ideally, responsive applications will propose research in a CEHS disease focus area (cardiopulmonary disease, developmental disease, or environmental cancer), however all applications proposing short term data-collection needs relevant to the CEHS mission and likely to result in an NIEHS R-series application will be considered.

Use and support from CEHS core facilities:
Selected projects will be provided the opportunity to meet with the CEHS Facility Cores or Sub-Cores (http://sph.unc.edu/cehs/facility-cores/) to determine possible partnerships and support. The CEHS Facility Cores include:

- Integrative Health Sciences Core (IHSFC)- Director Jeannette Bensen, jeannette_bensen@med.unc.edu
- Molecular Analysis and Statistical Support Core (MASS)- Co-Directors Kun Lu, kunlu@unc.edu (Molecular Analysis) and Haibo Zhou, zhou@bios.unc.edu (Biostatistics)
- Community Engagement Core - Director Kathleen Gray, kmgray@email.unc.edu

Application review criteria:
An expedited scientific review will occur as follows:
1. Applications will be reviewed for significance and for their ability to support an externally funded NIEHS-relevant grant application.
2. Projects selected for funding will be notified within 2-4 weeks of their submission.

Application format and submission:
The PI should submit:
- Application Cover Page including project summary and collaborators
- Scope of work including Objectives, Research Methods, and brief description of NIH/NIEHS proposal this seed grant will contribute to.
- Budget
- Budget justification
- PI biosketch(es)
Applicants should submit an online application by clicking this link – **CEHS RAPID RESPONSE APPLICATION**.

**FUNDING, ALLOWABLE ITEMS, AND BUDGET:**
The budget and budget justification must be detailed and should follow the format of the current NIH Budget and Budget Justification pages. Funding will be permitted for personnel, supplies, and some types of equipment. For personnel, the appropriate cost for fringe benefits should be included – **UNC current fringe rates**. Health insurance for permanent staff and Graduate Research Assistants (GRA) should also be included (current health insurance rates apply; please check with the business office of the corresponding department to confirm the appropriate rates in effect at the time of this submission). If a GRA is hired, the PI should decide if the tuition award cost will be included in the budget (and is consistent with the PI’s departmental guidelines). Funds to support students should be limited to no more than 50% of your total budget. Funds may **not** be used for faculty salaries, equipment such as computers, tablets or AV equipment, stipends, travel or publication or page charges. The Center does not fund clinical trial research, so proposals involving clinical trials should not be submitted. For funded proposals, budget changes must be requested in writing. Any deviations from these budget guidelines require approval prior to submission. All projects must be completed by March 31, 2022. PI requests for carryover funds are discouraged.

**CEHS Contacts:**

For more information on programmatic fit and funding priorities for the CEHS, please contact, Michael Sanderson, [Michael_Sanderson@unc.edu](mailto:Michael_Sanderson@unc.edu).