

accurately reflect actual reporting levels (rounded to the next highest thousand responses). This adjustment accounts for a decrease of about 218,000 hours.

The second adjustment is to the unit burden hours. EPA has adjusted the estimate of unit burden hours for Form R completion in subsequent years from 47.1 hours to 14.5 hours based on responses from actual TRI reporting facilities. This adjustment accounts for a decrease of about 2.68 million hours.

The third adjustment relates to the adoption of TRI-ME, an automated reporting software package. EPA has reduced the burden estimates related to Form R Completion and Recordkeeping/ Submission by 25 percent for the reports filed using TRI-ME. On an annualized basis, an estimated 60 percent of reports are expected to be filed using TRI-ME over the three years of the ICR. This adjustment accounts for a decrease of about 261,000 hours.

The sum of these adjustments is a decrease of 4,117 responses and 3,162,697 burden hours from the current approved total. These adjustments are described in further detail in the supporting statement for this ICR, available in the public version of the official record.

#### IX. What Is the Next Step in the Process for This ICR?

EPA will consider the comments received and amend the ICR as appropriate. The final ICR package will then be submitted to OMB for review and approval pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.12. EPA will issue another **Federal Register** notice pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.5(a)(1)(iv) to announce the submission of the ICR to OMB and the opportunity to submit additional comments to OMB. If you have any questions about this ICR or the approval process, please contact the person(s) listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Dated: June 25, 2003.

**Kimberly T. Nelson,**

*Assistant Administrator, Office of Environmental Information.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL -7521-3]

### Solicitation Notice; Children's Environmental Health Protection State Level Collaboration to Address Childhood Asthma Initiative, Fiscal Year 2003—USEPA-AO-OCHP-03-001

Fiscal Year 2003, Environmental Protection Agency, deadline for letter of intent, August 11, 2003; <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oceph/ocephweb.nsf/content/grants.htm>.

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#### Section I. Overview

##### A. Summary

This action known as the Solicitation Notice for the Children's Environmental Health Protection State Level Collaboration to Address Childhood Asthma Initiative, Fiscal Year 2003 announces the availability of funds from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP), to support the efforts of state environment and health agencies together to minimize the environmental factors that exacerbate asthma symptoms in children.

##### B. Authorities

Section 103 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) authorizes EPA's Administrator to conduct and promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, and control of air pollution by making grants to air pollution control agencies, to other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, and organizations for purposes stated in section 103(a)(1) <http://www.epa.gov/oar/caa/caa103.txt>.

The goal of the Children's Environmental Health Protection program (hereinafter "the Initiative") is to minimize and/or eliminate children's exposure to environmental health

threats—recognizing children's special vulnerability to these threats and recognizing the possibility of preventable childhood exposures leading to lifelong, irreversible consequences. This program is included within the Catalogue for Domestic Assistance (CFDA) listing number: 66.609 found at <http://www.cfda.gov>. This funding initiative will support planning and/or demonstration projects related specifically to the environmental triggers of childhood asthma.

##### C. Background

In recent years, EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection has encouraged and supported collaboration between state level health and environment agencies toward the end of building state capacity to combat childhood asthma.

Since the summer of 2001, the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) has collaborated with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to design a flexible template for state level strategies and actions to minimize environmental factors that contribute to asthma in children.

This focus on environmental factors complements the on-going Centers for Disease Control (CDC) state asthma program which recognizes the need to address environmental factors but does not explicitly provide guidance or support for this aspect of disease prevention and control. This action may also complement Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Healthy Homes Initiative, which supports effective home assessment and intervention programs as well as public education.

Throughout 2002, ECOS, ASTHO, and EPA hosted a series of four workshops to refine the details of a cooperative approach in four specific areas: Data, environmental factors in homes, environmental factors in schools and child care facilities, and outdoor environmental factors.

The eligible funding categories and guiding principles of this Request for Applications are a reflection of the draft action agenda, *Catching Your Breath*, <http://www.astho.org/pubs/CatchingYourBreathReport.pdf> that resulted from this intensive collaborative visioning process.

##### D. Proposal Categories

The Initiative plans to award assistance agreements (grants and cooperative agreements) to state health and environment agencies and/or regional air authorities with formal delegated authorities with a project