

Pure Earth Announces Small Grants 2016

Small Grants 2016 focus on the human health effects, scope and remediation of environmental contaminants in countries in WHO Mortality Strata B, C, D and E. Small Grants 2016 will provide manuscript support for researchers to write up credible findings for publication in an international, peer-reviewed journal.

Description

Researchers investigating the impact, health effects and/or treatments, environmental control and/or remediation technology of environmental contamination are invited to apply. Contaminants of interest include heavy metals, pesticides, radionuclides, dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyls, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds and air particulates. Research addressing contamination which has no potential human health impact, or for which there is no pathway to humans will not be funded. Awardees must submit findings for publication in an international peer-reviewed journal.

Research *must* relate to countries that belong to WHO Mortality Strata B, C, D or E.¹

Eligibility

All types of institutions are eligible to apply. Individuals are eligible to apply. Applicants must come from countries in WHO Mortality Strata B, C, D or E.¹ Applicants and Principal Investigators should have a Masters, PhD, MD or other graduate-level degree in a relevant field. In all cases, applicants must show proof of sufficient research capacity.

Awards

Awards are up to USD1,000. Requests for higher amounts may be considered on a case-by-case basis if the research is especially novel or compelling. Applicants may apply for more than one award by submitting a separate application for each. Awardees must submit findings for publication in an international peer-reviewed journal by December 30, 2016.

Application Requirements

Applications should be no longer than 4 pages and include:

- Administrative information (indicate whether institutional or individual application, past experience, and qualifications);
- Research summary, to include:
 - study rationale, including a *clearly stated* research question (objective or testable hypotheses)
 - study design and methods, see Methods Requirements in Appendix A
 - evidence of any necessary IRB or ethics committee approvals (attached approvals do not count towards 4 page limit), see [here](#) for minimal requirements

Research summary can be in the form of a first draft manuscript if available (4 page is waived if a first draft manuscript is sent)

- Detailed budget
- Cite references if possible (references/citations do not count towards the 4 page limit)

Pure Earth Takes Plagiarism Seriously

Proposals showing evidence of plagiarism will be disqualified from consideration. For definitions and help avoiding plagiarism, visit www.plagiarism.org/.

Review Criteria

Grant selection will be based on (not in order of importance):

- Relevance and originality of research question(s)
- Public/human health significance
- Internal validity, scientific rigor of proposed methods
- Ethical considerations
- Potential for publication

Conditions of Grant

For institutional applicants, *evidence of approval from the host institution is required* (letters of support do not count towards the 4 page limit). Successful applicants will receive 50% of award when signed grant agreement is submitted to Pure Earth, and 50% on submission of manuscript to an international, peer reviewed journal. Project and financial reports are due at the end of the funding period.

Application Submission

Submit proposals and questions to grants@pureearth.org.

Timeline

Activity	Deadline
Closing date for applications	September 16, 2016
Applicants notified	No later than October 21, 2016
Manuscript submission and final reports due	No later than December 30, 2016

¹ World Health Organization, *Global Burden of Disease Regions used for WHO-CHOICE Analyses*. <http://www.who.int/choice/demography/regions/en/index.html>

Appendix A—Methods Requirements

The study hypotheses should be clearly stated. Details should be provided on the specific statistical tests used to test each hypothesis.

If environmental and/or biological sample collection was done, be sure to include the following details in Methods:

- A description of the site selection: Why was the particular site/sites chosen? What are the geographic boundaries? How were they delineated?
- If human subjects were included, include a description of the study population and sample selection method: Is it a randomized probability sample or a convenience sample? How specifically was the sample enumerated? How were subjects recruited? Which applicable ethical clearances were obtained prior to recruiting subjects? How was informed consent obtained?
- If environmental samples (but no human subjects) were included, what was the sampling methodology (i.e. are the samples designed to be geographically representative?);
- A description of the sample size calculation formula used (or other sample size justification) and target sample size to test the main study hypothesis/hypotheses.

If laboratory analyses were done, include detailed descriptions of the relevant quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) procedures that were followed, including but not limited to:

- A description of the laboratory's experience analyzing the proposed analytes in the proposed sample media, including any current international certifications the laboratory holds, and/or participation in international laboratory round-robin activities. Attach copies of any relevant laboratory certifications to your proposal (these will not count towards the 4 page limit);
- A description of how sampling equipment was prepared/cleaned to avoid contamination, including the analytical grade and manufacturer of any solvents/reagents used [e.g., "Trace Metals Grade nitric acid (J.T. Baker, Inc.)"];
- The limit of detection for each analyte/medium and how it was calculated;
- How background contamination was evaluated (e.g., through collection of field, laboratory, and solvent blanks);
- Methods for demonstrating accuracy (e.g., used of isotopically labeled or non-labeled internal standards,

analysis of certified reference materials [CRM], analysis of matrix spike samples) whenever possible, international CRMs should be used over in house spiking to demonstrate method accuracy, since spiking samples does not always allow for accurate replication of matrix effects; if the laboratory does not have the relevant CRM(s), then a line item should be included in the budget for CRM purchase/shipping);

- Methods for demonstrating precision (e.g., field and laboratory duplicates or triplicates).

For guidance on QA/QC data and procedures for laboratory data, see <http://www.epa.gov/region9/qa/pdfs/ldrdrv.pdf>.

If questionnaire data are included:

- If a standardized questionnaire was used, include a description of the source of the questionnaire (with proper citation) and what it was originally designed for;
- Or, if you designed the questionnaire yourself, a list of the questions to be asked, the source/citation of any questions you will adopt verbatim from somewhere else (such as a national census), and a description of how you pre-tested/pilot tested the questionnaire (note: you may attach a copy of the questionnaire and it will not count towards the 4 page limit);
- A description of the original language of the questionnaire and any translations/back-translations that were performed;
- A description of who conducted the interviews and how interviewers were trained (e.g., such as training on ways to minimize the number of missing responses without coercing subjects or making them feel uncomfortable);
- A description of methods such as double key entry and/or other methods you used to minimize error in electronic coding of questionnaire data.