**Response to NIH Climate Change and Human Health Request for Information**

Notice Number NOT-ES-21-009

Attn:  [NIEHS-RFI-CCHH@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:NIEHS-RFI-CCHH@niehs.nih.gov)

September 17, 2021

On behalf of the American Lung Association and the millions of Americans living with or at risk of developing lung disease that we represent, thank you for the opportunity to submit a response to this Request for Information.

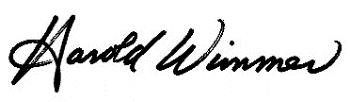
In his January 27, 2021, *Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, President Biden directed his Administration to organize and deploy the full capacity of its agencies to combat the climate crisis to implement a government-wide approach that reduces climate pollution in every sector of the economy; increases resilience to the impacts of climate change; protects public health; conserves our lands, waters and biodiversity; delivers environmental justice; and spurs well-paying union jobs and economic growth.

In the spirit of this Executive Order, the Lung Association wishes to convey its support to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for taking a cross-disciplinary approach to developing a research agenda on the health impacts of climate change. However, we encourage you to do more to increase collaboration and inclusivity. Specifically, we suggest that:

* Within NIH, more institutes than are named in the Notice need to be involved in the effort, including the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHBLI), the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). Climate change has serious implications for the spread of infectious diseases, increased air and water pollution and extreme weather events that affect people of all ages and underlying health conditions.
* NIH should also be collaborating and resource-sharing with other federal agencies and programs that have a role in addressing the current and potential health impacts from climate change, including but not limited to the newly announced Office of Climate Change and Health Equity, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Energy, Transportation and Agriculture. In particular, the programs at CDC’s National Center for Environmental Health, including the Climate and Health program, offer fruitful opportunities for collaboration.
* Related to topic *IV. Rapid Research Response Capacity to Address Human Health and Climate Change,* we agree that rapid research response capacity is an important role for NIH, but any new initiatives should support, not duplicate, the role of CDC.
* Related to topic *V. Diverse Workforce to Address Human Health and Climate Change,* please expand the definition of a diverse workforce beyond researchers and biomedical professionals to include public health.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Harold P. Wimmer

National President and CEO