

NIH Climate Change and Health Initiative

Strategic Framework

National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council (NAEHSC)

Special Open Session

November 29, 2021

To introduce the concept to outline a strategic framework

<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/news/video/naehsc/index.cfm#929007>

Background

Federal Government Activities Emphasize a Renewed Focus on Climate Change Across Agencies

- New HHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity created by President Biden
- New Climate Action Plans
 - *Include discussion of roles for NIH*
- New Strategic Plans
 - *HHS calls out NIH for climate action*

Executive Orders Impel Renewed Focus on Climate Change Across Agencies

- Executive Order 14008 Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

President's Budget & Congressional Markup

- President's Budget, House & Senate Markup for Fiscal Year 2022 includes \$100 Million to NIEHS for CCH Research

Executive Committee of the NIH Climate Change and Health (CCH) Initiative

- Rick Woychik, PhD Director, NIEHS, Executive Committee Chair
- Diana Bianchi, MD Director, NICHD
- Roger Glass, MD, PhD Director, FIC
- Eliseo Perez-Stable, MD Director, NIMHD
- Gary Gibbons, MD Director, NHLBI
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- Shannon Zenk, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN Director, NINR

Goals and Objectives of the Concept

Goals of the Initiative are to reduce health threats across the lifespan and build health resilience in individuals, communities, and nations around the world, especially among those at highest risk.

Objectives to accomplish the goals include:

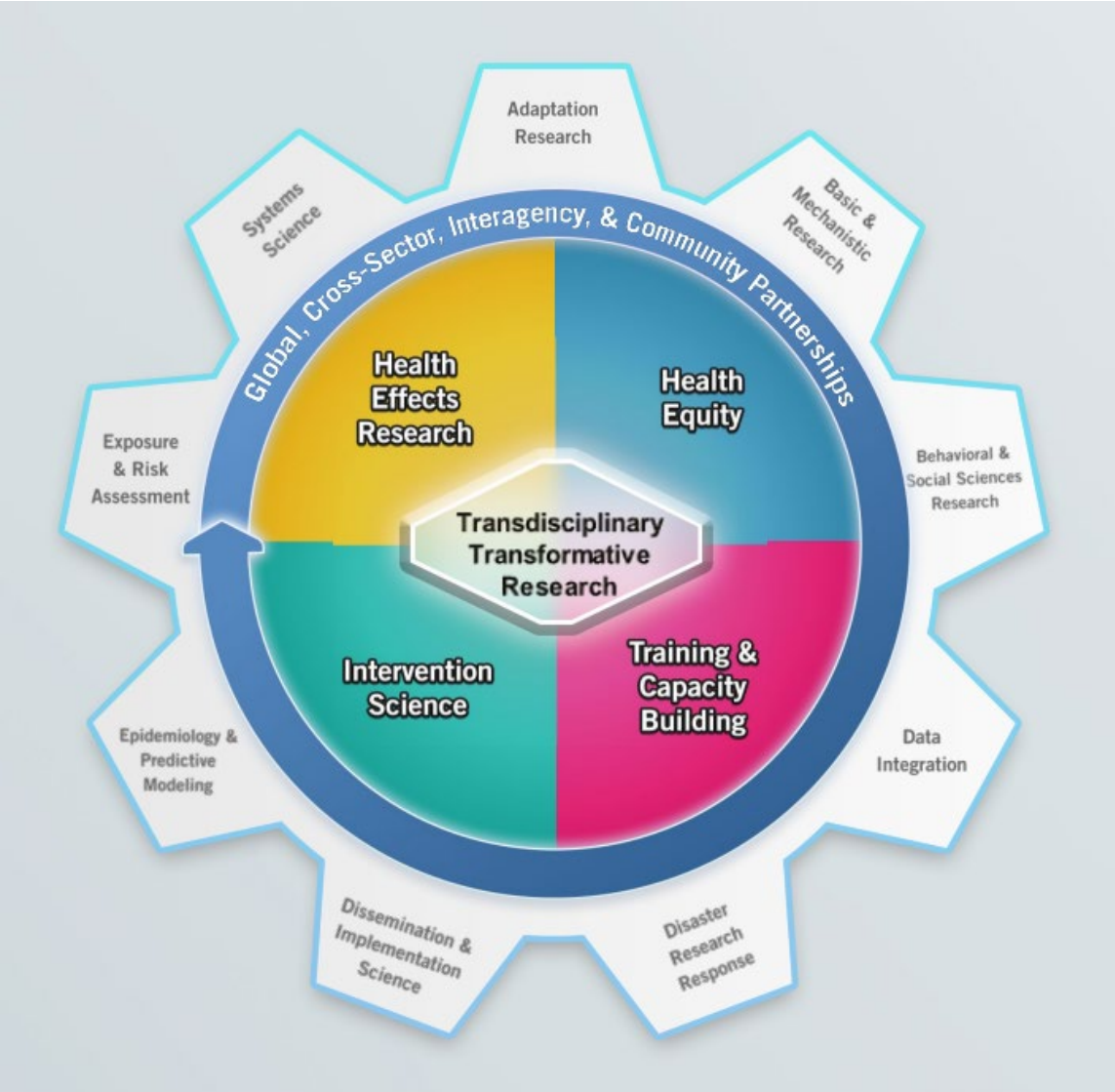
- Identify risks and optimize benefits to the health of individuals, communities, and populations from actions to mitigate or adapt to climate change
- Develop the necessary research infrastructure and workforce to enable the generation of timely and relevant knowledge, drawing from the full spectrum of biomedical disciplines
- Leverage partnerships with other scientific and social disciplines and organizations to achieve the most impactful results
- Innovate across the research translation continuum to ensure findings are credible, accessible, and actionable for achieving these goals

Strategic Framework is the product of the NIH CCH Working Group

Development and Inputs Include:

- NIH Request for Information (RFI) NOT-ES-21-009: CCH Responses Summary
- Portfolio Analysis of NIH-wide CCH Research, FY 2011-2020
- NIH Staff Input: Whiteboard Workshop Summary
- Landscape Report: Federal and International CCH Research Funding
- IC Data Call of Potentially Relevant NIH Programs: Current and Planned

Strategic Framework: 4 Core Elements and Supporting Areas of Science



- **Health Effects Research:** Scientific investigation of the influences of climate change on health outcomes.
- **Health Equity:** Recognizing and responding to the needs of populations most at risk of climate change impacts to their health.
- **Intervention Research:** Science that provides the evidence base for development and implementation of timely, effective strategies to prevent disease and disability and promote health.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Transmission of the fundamental knowledge and skills to conduct multidisciplinary climate and health science, develop innovative supporting technologies, and translate findings to facilitate understanding of and adaptation to the growing threat of climate change on health
- **Supporting Areas of Science:**
 - *Adaptation Research*
 - *Behavioral and Social Sciences Research*
 - *Data Integration*
 - *Disaster Research Response*
 - *Dissemination and Implementation Science*
 - *Epidemiology and Predictive Modeling*
 - *Exposure and Risk Assessment*
 - *Systems Science*
 - *Basic and Mechanistic Studies*

Appropriation of Funding

Proposed Appropriation as a Catalyst to Implement an NIH-Wide CCH Initiative
Includes:

- Expand funding for grants across NIH ecosystem to create a sustainable portfolio of CCH research
- Use Notices of Special Interest (NOSI) to broadly advertise NIH's intent to expand our CCH portfolio
- Create a flagship Centers of Excellence program that fosters team science across disciplines with extensive community engagement
- Create a Sustainable Small Business Innovative Research/Small Business Technology Transfer Program
- Support conferences and workshops that dive deeper into areas of need for the field
- Explore ways to build CCH capacity in the Intramural Research Program