Q: I am submitting an application on behalf of the Principal Investigator (PI). Will he/she be notified?
A: Email notifications regarding the application will be sent to the submitter and the PI. However, the submitter will need to work with the PI applicant to keep him/her apprised of the status.

Q: Who is eligible to be a PI?
A: Any faculty member who holds a Harvard University appointment as assistant professor, associate professor, or professor, irrespective of degree or institutional affiliation, is eligible to serve as the PI. Investigators who hold appointments such as lecturer, instructor, or research scientist/associate are eligible to apply as PI if approved by and with the support of their department chair. Investigators at these ranks must provide a letter from their department/division chief as appropriate, verifying their appointment title, status at Harvard, and departmental/divisional support of their application.

A Co-I is a substantial contributor who helps conceive of the idea, contributes to the intellectual development of the project, and/or designs the study or part thereof (e.g., scientific or technical details), and will be involved in the study throughout the funding year. Co-Is can be from any institution; however, if you are working with a Co-I from a non-Harvard affiliated institution, please justify how their external expertise adds to the project. Members of community-based organizations and government agencies may also serve as Co-Investigators. Although trainees (e.g., students, clinical trainees, postdoctoral fellows, and clinical fellows), visiting and adjunct faculty, and those with pending faculty appointments at the time of submission cannot serve as the PI on an application, they may serve as Co-.Is if they make a substantial contribution to the project. If you have questions about whether you are eligible to apply, please contact us at reactor@catalyst.harvard.edu.

Q: Do I need a Co-I for my project?
A: A Co-I is not required, nor is there a limit to the number of Co-Is that may be listed on an application. While researchers may submit only one application as PI, they may be listed as a Co-I on multiple applications.

Q: Can I submit more than one application?
A: Researchers may submit only one application as PI. Researchers may be listed as a Co-I on multiple applications.

Q: What is the review process?
A: Completed applications submitted by 5:00 pm EDT on October 23, 2020, with all required documents, will undergo administrative review. Those deemed complete and responsive to this RFA will be forwarded for scientific review. The scientific review is online, double-blind and conducted by Harvard faculty who have either broad or specific expertise as it relates to the proposal. They will consider questions such as, but not limited to,
the following:
• Is the proposal translational and innovative?
• Does the proposed project address an important clinical, translational and/or societal need related to environmental toxins?
• Is the project technically feasible and achievable in the funding period?
• Do the investigators have the requisite skills and model systems to carry out the project successfully?
• Does a successful project have the potential to benefit human health?

After the scientific review, finalist applications deemed most responsive and with high impact potential will be selected for a required Community Engagement Studio (CES). These 45-minute sessions are scheduled for January 6-8, 2021 between 9:00am and 5:00pm. PIs and other team members will be invited to provide a 15-minute presentation about their proposal to a panel of community stakeholders with expertise in the areas of environmental toxins, followed by a 30-minute discussion with panelists. The CES panelists will provide feedback on the importance of the research question, study design, recruitment and data collection (if applicable), and the dissemination plan. Pilot grant applicants will receive a template slide deck to assist with their presentation development.

Proposals are expected to incorporate the CES suggestions where possible or provide clear rationales for why suggestions cannot be incorporated. Applicants will receive written feedback from the CES within one week of the studio and have two weeks to submit their revised proposals. Finally, applicants will be invited for a final 15-minute presentations to Harvard Catalyst Leadership and invited experts. Awards will be announced after all invited teams have made their presentations.

All applicants will be notified of the results of the proposal review by March 2021. Scientific reviewer comments or feedback will not be provided to applicants.

Q: What is the Community Engagement Studio?
A: A Community Engagement Studio is a guidance session for health researchers to receive feedback from community stakeholders such as practitioners and patients. Community stakeholders serve on expert panels to provide feedback on various aspects of a research project, including the design, intervention, communication materials, recruitment strategies, community dissemination, and application of research findings to practice.

In the Community Engagement Studio for this grant opportunity, the stakeholders will have expertise in the area of environmental toxins. Panelists may include leaders in environmental health agencies, staff at environmental non-profit organizations, or community residents engaged environmental action. Harvard Catalyst believes that is important for translational researchers to consider the perspectives of those affected by the issues they are studying that can be gathered via a community engagement studio.

Q: Will feedback be provided on my application?
A: There will be feedback from the CES if your application is selected to move forward. Scientific reviewers will not provide feedback on any applications.

Contact Information
Inquiries related to the goals of the program, the application process, or eligibility should be directed to: reactor@catalyst.harvard.edu.

Inquiries related to financial or grants management areas should be directed to: Emanuel Amaral, Manager of Research and Grants Administration, Harvard Catalyst at: Emanuel_Amaral@hms.harvard.edu.