

Per California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 548.5, the following information will be posted to CalHR's Career Executive Assignment Action Proposals website for 30 calendar days when departments propose new CEA concepts or major revisions to existing CEA concepts. Presence of the department-submitted CEA Action Proposal information on CalHR's website does not indicate CalHR support for the proposal.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Date

09/17/25

2. Department

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

3. Organizational Placement (Division/Branch/Office Name)

Executive Office

4. CEA Position Title

Director, Children's Environmental Health Center

5. Summary of proposed position description and how it relates to the program's mission or purpose.
(2-3 sentences)

The Children's Environmental Health Center was established within California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) by SB 25 (Escutia, Chapter 731, Statutes of 1999) and codified in Health and Safety Code Sections 900 and 901. The Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center serves as the chief advisor to the OEHHA Director, CalEPA Secretary and to the Governor on matters relating to the health and environmental protection of children that are within the jurisdiction of the agency.

Under general direction of the Chief Deputy Director, Executive Office, the Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center provides executive leadership and strategic direction to OEHHA's scientific branches in the Division of Scientific Programs on children's environmental health issues including the Air Toxicology and Risk Assessment Section on the Toxic Air Contaminants and Air Toxics Hot Spots Programs, underscoring the Office's mandates under the Children's Health Protection Act. The CEA will implement and evaluate policies ensuring that the programs and policies are consistent with state mandates focusing on infant and children's health among communities disproportionately exposed to environmental pollutants.

6. Reports to: (Class Title/Level)

Chief Deputy Director/Level C

7. Relationship with Department Director (*Select one*)

- ☒ Member of department's Executive Management Team, and has frequent contact with director on a wide range of department-wide issues.
- ☐ Not a member of department's Executive Management Team but has frequent contact with the Executive Management Team on policy issues.

(Explain):

8. Organizational Level (*Select one*)

☐ 1st ☒ 2nd ☐ 3rd ☐ 4th ☐ 5th (mega departments only - 17,001+ allocated positions)

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST

9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the CEA position? Be specific and provide examples.

Provide executive leadership and strategic direction for the Children's Environmental Health Center. Oversee statewide activities including symposia, reports, and educational initiatives addressing children's health and environmental chemical issues. Directs collaboration with state and federal partners to develop educational materials and public health strategies. Represent OEHHA in high-level stakeholder engagement and community outreach to implement CalEPA's policies. Develop public health related policy, strategy, and guidance to promote and improve infant and children's health among communities disproportionately exposed to environmental pollutants. Participates in community outreach to implement CalEPA's policies pertaining to children's environmental health. Oversee the development of Children's Environmental Health Center reports to the Legislature and Governor on CalEPA activities that protect or inform children's environmental health in California every two years.

Using pediatric medical expertise, relate epidemiological and medical findings to public health evaluations of environmental contaminants and impacts of other stressors on infants and children to inform departmental policy and provide executive policy guidance. Direct and oversee the application of medical and epidemiological findings to departmental policy on environmental contaminants. Guide and coordinate the work of toxicologists, epidemiologists, and scientists across OEHHA branches to ensure chemical specific risk assessments, criteria, guidelines, and investigations of the impacts of environmental contaminants reflect statewide protection of children and infants.

Coordinate and provide leadership across OEHHA's scientific branches in the Division of Scientific Programs and provide medical expertise on evaluation of health impacts of criteria air pollutants on children, exposures to environmental pollutants under Biomonitoring California, and other programs. Oversee and evaluate staff review of the medical and epidemiological literature on differences between infants, children, and adults that affects the response to those toxicants. Evaluate, review, and analyze data on differences between infants and children and adults in relation to response to Toxic Air Contaminants, and other air pollutants emphasizing epidemiological methods of analysis. The analyses will include both general information and chemical-specific information. The analyses will also focus on identifying more sensitive subgroups of infants and children.

Identify, develop, and implement public health medical policy by providing overall program direction, developing new programs, and providing guidance to OEHHA, CalEPA, the Governor to assure children's health and exposure to environmental chemicals are addressed. Identify and assess research needs and resources within the agency and provide leadership in research programs including overseeing community-based research projects. Represent OEHHA and CalEPA on committees and in activities related to other public and voluntary organizations, agencies, and advisory groups. Work with other public health medical officers particularly those working on children's health and exposure to environmental contaminants.

Provide pediatric medical expertise focused on community health and community-based research relating to children's health and environmental chemical exposures. Provide pediatric medical expertise to other state agencies, local agencies, including air pollution control districts and county health officers, and to federal agencies working on issues regarding the protection of infants and children from environmental contaminants.

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

10. How critical is the program's mission or purpose to the department's mission as a whole? Include a description of the degree to which the program is critical to the department's mission.

- ☒ Program is directly related to department's primary mission and is critical to achieving the department's goals.
- ☐ Program is indirectly related to department's primary mission.
- ☐ Program plays a supporting role in achieving department's mission (i.e., budget, personnel, other admin functions).

Description:

The Children's Environmental Health Center was established within California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) by SB 25 (Escutia, Chapter 731, Statutes of 1999) and codified in Health and Safety Code Sections 900 and 901. The program sits within OEHHA where the Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center serves as the chief advisor to the CalEPA Secretary, to the Governor, and OEHHA's Director on matters relating to the health and environmental protection of children that are within the jurisdiction of the agency. The Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center provides executive leadership, strategic direction on policy and technical topics for OEHHA's scientific branches in the Division of Scientific Programs on children's environmental health issues including on the Toxic Air Contaminants and Air Toxics Hot Spots Programs. This underscores OEHHA's mandates under the Children's Health Protection Act.

This program has a direct impact on the health of California's most sensitive and youngest citizens. Because of the scientific and policy implications of this work, it is critical that appropriate oversight of its work be carried out. The OEHHA Executive Office is responsible for not only scientific review and coordination of effort among the the scientific Branches within OEHHA, but also consideration of policy decisions affecting California, local communities and other stakeholders.

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

11. Describe what has changed that makes this request necessary. Explain how the change justifies the current request. Be specific and provide examples.

Children can be more affected by environmental chemicals than adults. They eat, drink, and breathe more per pound of body weight than adults. Thus, children's exposures to contaminants in our air, water, and food are higher than an adult in the same setting. Because children are still growing and developing, they can be more sensitive to the adverse health effects of chemicals than an adult. In some cases, the effects are irreversible. It is increasingly recognized that exposures early in life affect adult health. The changing climate and impact from the increasing number of urban wildfires releasing particularly toxic chemicals, smoke, and particulate matter into the environment have adverse health effects on children and pregnant people. Climate change can affect children and pregnant people's health through exposures to extreme heat and floods. With hot weather becoming more common and heat-related health problems can become more serious. A main point of CalEPA's children's health activities is mitigating the health risks from wildfire smoke. In addition there are ongoing requests of OEHHA to provide high level risk assessments (e.g., study of neurotoxic effects of synthetic food dyes, study of the health effects from playing on synthetic turf fields), and an increasing demand for health guidance values on air toxicants and drinking water contaminants such as the persistent perfluorinated contaminants. These programs are high profile with significant policy implications and impact the health of children. They require the Chief Deputy Director to seek input from the Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center at a high administrative and policy influencing position. The Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center would provide executive leadership and strategic direction to the Chief Deputy Director and Director in developing public policy that promotes and improves infant, children's and pregnant peoples health especially among communities disproportionately exposed to environmental pollutants. These have important state-wide impacts and thus require a commensurate level of policy and scientific guidance.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE

12. Provide 3-5 specific examples of policy areas over which the CEA position will be the principle policy maker. Each example should cite a policy that would have an identifiable impact. Include a description of the statewide impact of the assigned program.

The Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center (CEHC) will have primary responsibility for departmental policy development and strategic direction on matters relating to the health and environmental protection of infants and children within OEHHA's scientific programs. Additionally, the Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center serves as the chief advisor to the CalEPA Secretary and to the Governor. The CEA will implement and evaluate policies ensuring that the programs and policies are consistent with state mandates focusing on infant and children's health among communities disproportionately exposed to environmental pollutants. Specifically these include:

- Children's Environmental Health Center serves as a resource for CalEPA and the State of California, performs outreach and education for the medical and public health community as well as for the general public, and coordinates with the CalEPA boards and departments to promote policies and efforts that protect children's health. CEHC was established in CalEPA by the Children's Environmental Health Protection Act (Escutia, Chapter 731, Statutes of 1999). It ensures that CalEPA's programs specifically protect children's health in California.
- Children's Environmental Health Center reports on how CalEPA has protected children from a myriad of exposures that children encounter while they are at home, at school, and in their communities. The Children's Environmental Health Protection Act requires a report to the Legislature and Governor every two years and serves as a way to document the work conducted by CalEPA boards, departments, and offices to ensure that children and pregnant people are adequately protected from environmental contaminants.
- Incorporation of children's health across OEHHA's scientific branches in the Division of Scientific Programs. Medical expertise on evaluation of health impacts of criteria air pollutants on children, exposures to environmental pollutants under Biomonitoring California, and other programs. Develop public health related policy, strategy, and guidance to promote and improve infant and children's health among communities disproportionately exposed to environmental pollutants. Participates in community outreach to implement CalEPA's policies pertaining to children's environmental health.
- Identify, develop, and implement public health medical policy by providing overall program direction, developing new programs, and providing guidance to OEHHA, CalEPA, the Governor to assure children's health and exposure to environmental chemicals are addressed. Identify and assess research needs and resources within the agency and provide leadership in research programs including overseeing community-based research projects.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)

13. What is the CEA position's scope and nature of decision-making authority?

The Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center will have a broad scope and extensive decision-making authority within the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment on matters related to the health and environmental protection of infants, children and pregnant people. The Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center will oversee the development of specific scientific work products assigned by the Director, and/or Chief Deputy Director for Scientific Programs and will provide day-to-day program oversight on work products to ensure chemical specific risk assessments, guidelines, and investigations of the impacts of environmental contaminants reflect statewide protection of children and infants. The Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center will serve as a member of the Director's executive staff, providing significant input in policy formulation, and in implementing and evaluating policies affecting scientific programs, and conducting activities covering outreach and external affairs, legislation, regulatory programs and administration relating to effects of environmental contaminants on the health of infants and children and serving as the chief advisor to the CalEPA Secretary and to the Governor.

Formulate policies and oversees the implementation and evaluation of policies affecting children's health, conducting activities of outreach and external affairs, legislation, regulatory programs, and administration. Assists the Chief Deputy Director and Director in scientific program policy development to implement new or revised areas of investigation or analysis that assess public and environmental health hazards from chemicals, climate change, and public health studies and to ensure that the policies related to toxicological and other sciences are implemented by all scientific programs in OEHHA on matters relating to children's health, and are consistent with departmental guidelines and requirements.

Reviews legislative proposals for their impact on children's public health and the environment of California, for their compatibility with OEHHA's mission, and for their impact on OEHHA's budget, personnel, and timelines. Develops or reviews Budget Change Proposals to support new initiatives that are important in furthering OEHHA's activities and in keeping pace with new scientific developments and requirements.

Identify, develop, and implement public health medical policy by providing overall program direction, developing new programs, and providing guidance to OEHHA, CalEPA, the Governor to assure children's health and exposure to environmental chemicals are addressed. Identify and assess research needs and resources within the agency and provide leadership in research programs including overseeing community-based research projects. Represents OEHHA and CalEPA on committees and in activities related to other public and voluntary organizations, agencies, and advisory groups. Acts as a liaison between OEHHA and other public health medical officers particularly those working on children's health and exposure to environmental contaminants.

Oversee and evaluate staff review of the medical and epidemiological literature on differences between infants, children, and adults that affects the response to those toxicants in particular areas that focus on identifying more sensitive subgroups of infants and children. Provide pediatric medical expertise focused on community health and community-based research relating to children's health and environmental chemical exposures. Provide pediatric medical expertise to other state agencies, local agencies, including air pollution control districts and county health officers, and to federal agencies working on issues regarding the protection of infants and children from environmental contaminants.

14. Will the CEA position be developing and implementing new policy, or interpreting and implementing existing policy? How?

Formulates policies and oversees the implementation and evaluation of policies to promote and improve infant and children's health in California and among communities disproportionately exposed to environmental pollutants. Conducting activities of outreach and external affairs, legislation, regulatory programs, and administration. Identify, develop, and implement public health medical policy by providing overall program direction, developing new programs, and providing guidance to OEHHA, CalEPA, the Governor to assure children's health and exposure to environmental chemicals, climate change, and other toxicants are implemented within all scientific programs in OEHHA, and are consistent with departmental guidelines and requirements.

The Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center will be primarily implementing the policies of CalEPA and the current governor. The Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center will be in a position to evaluate new policies or substantial changes to current policies to be moved forward to the CalEPA and the Governor's Office for consideration. The Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center will gather the viewpoints of the branches and ensure that they receive consideration at the Agency level and beyond, where they may impact policy on the State level.