



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The National Environmental Education Foundation Joins the National Institutes of Health in Advancing Asthma Control and Care

WASHINGTON, D.C. —The National Environmental Education Foundation's (NEEF) Health & Environment Program has joined a group of leading, nonprofit, scientific, professional, academic and consumer/patient advocacy organizations in helping Americans with asthma breathe easier through a national asthma initiative coordinated by the National Institute of Health's National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

NEEF received a two-year contract through the NHLBI's National Asthma Control Initiative (NACI) Strategic Partnership Engagement Program.

"We are honored to be part of the NACI Strategic Partnership Engagement Program," said Leyla McCurdy, senior director of NEEF's Health & Environment Program. "This grant will allow us to expand our Pediatric Asthma Initiative enabling us to reach more health care professionals and their patients affected by this disease."

NEEF's Health & Environment [Pediatric Asthma Initiative](#), which aims to integrate environmental management of asthma into pediatric care, has trained more than 3,500 faculty, medical students, residents, and other health care providers in three years through our faculty champions – pediatric faculty members at five medical schools across the country.

Resources from the Pediatric Asthma Initiative, including the [Environmental Management of Pediatric Asthma: Guidelines for Health Care Providers](#) and the [Environmental History Form for Pediatric Asthma Patient](#), have been referenced in several clinical textbooks and other publications, furthering the project's success towards institutionalizing environmental management of asthma. NEEF's asthma tools and resources are [available online](#) both in English and Spanish.

"Our goal is to help people who have asthma lead longer, healthier, and fuller lives, thereby reducing asthma's toll on those who have it," said Diana Schmidt, NHLBI's coordinator of the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program. "Strategic partners play a critical role in realizing this goal."

The NACI Strategic Partnership Engagement Program is one of three core NACI national efforts to enlist dedicated stakeholders at national, regional, state, and local levels to improve asthma care, control and outcomes. The other two are the NACI National Champions Program, and the NACI National Demonstration Project Program. The mission of all three is to help stakeholders implement the selected six, evidence-based recommendations from the *Expert Panel Report 3-Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma* (EPR-3), and the priority message for each as presented in the EPR-3 companion document, the *Guidelines Implementation Panel (GIP) Report*. Those messages are to assess asthma severity; assess asthma control;

schedule follow-up visits; use inhaled corticosteroids; use asthma action plans; and control environmental exposures.

The reports, their recommendations, and the NACI itself originate in the NHLBI's long-standing National Asthma Education and Prevention Program, which in December 2008 launched the NACI to expand guidelines implementation across a broad array of settings (i.e., clinical practices, schools, childcare settings, worksites, and communities) through wide-range engagement of multiple stakeholders.

The NACI will evaluate the impact of the six messages through its partnerships projects, which focus on promoting quality improvement with clinical decision support tools and expert feedback; integrating asthma clinical practice guidelines into medical school curricula, accredited continuing education courses, and physician maintenance of certification requirements; expanding Web-based and in-person education and training programs for school personnel and health care professionals; and more.

The contracts will be administered by Washington D.C.-based AED, a contractor for the NACI. Following are the other NACI strategic partners:

- Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics (Fairfax, Va.)
- American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (Milwaukee, Wis.)
- American Board of Family Medicine, Inc. (Lexington, Ky.)
- American School Health Association (Kent, Ohio)
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (Cherry Hill, N.J.)
- National Asthma Campaign Foundation (Parsippany, N.J.)
- University of Michigan Center for Managing Chronic Disease (Ann Arbor, Mich.)
- University of Washington (Seattle, Wash.)

The NACI continues to seek strategic partners, and most recently added the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to those ranks.

**Editors: For additional information, please visit the sites below. For interviews, contact the individual at the top of the release. To speak with an NHLBI representative, please call 301-496-4236 and ask for the press officer on duty, or email NHLBI_news@nhlbi.nih.gov.*

Resources:

From the National Environmental Education Foundation: <http://neefusa.org/health/asthma/index.htm>

From the National Asthma Control Initiative:
http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/dci/Diseases/Asthma/Asthma_WhatIs.html



Knowledge to Live By

The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) provides knowledge to trusted professionals who, with their credibility, amplify messages to national audiences to solve everyday environmental problems. Together, we generate lasting positive change. NEEF partners with professionals in health, education, media, business and public land management to promote daily actions for helping people protect and enjoy the environment. Through our primary programs -- Classroom Earth, National Public Lands Day, National Environmental Education Week, Business and Environment, Earth Gauge® and Health & Environment -- we offer Americans knowledge to live by. To learn more, call (202) 833-2933 or visit www.neefusa.org.

The Health and Environment program advances environmental knowledge among health care professionals to improve the public's health with a special emphasis on children and underserved populations.