

## **Concept Clearance: Expanding Access to ECHO Cohort Data and Biospecimens through X01**

### **Background**

In its initial 7-year funding cycle, the Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) Program harmonized longitudinal data from more than 107,000 maternal and child participants from 69 U.S. cohorts examining early exposures and child health outcomes. Combining data across studies into a single cohort has enabled statistical power for addressing important child health research questions and increased generalizability of research findings. Prenatal and child exposure data include natural and built environments, physical, chemical, social, behavioral, and biological factors. ECHO's five pediatric outcome areas are pre-, peri-, and postnatal outcomes, upper and lower airway, obesity, neurodevelopment, and positive health. The ECHO Cohort is now in its second 7-year cycle, which is following 30,000 continuing children, recruiting 30,000 new pregnancies, and adding a preconception phase.

After eight years, the ECHO Cohort has amassed a large data and biospecimen resource. In addition to a de-identified, controlled-access publicly available data set available through NICHD Data and Specimen Hub ([DASH](#)), ECHO maintains newly collected study data in the ECHO Data Analysis Center's Data Platform, including (restricted-access) personally identifiable information. ECHO investigators also deposit biospecimens in the ECHO Laboratory Core's biorepository. To enable ECHO to be a nationwide resource for child health research, ECHO is prioritizing use of non-publicly available data and biospecimens to the broader scientific community. Therefore, it is important to establish a process for facilitating access to the data and biospecimens to the scientific community beyond ECHO investigators. As such, this concept for PAR for an X01 facilitates access to ECHO Cohort data and biospecimens accessible to the broader scientific community.

### **Objective**

The purpose of this concept is to enhance ECHO's impact and value while fostering collaboration and equity of opportunity through expanded access to ECHO data and biospecimens through issue of a new PAR for an X01.

The proposed PAR title is: Expanding Access to ECHO Cohort Data and Biospecimens (X01)

**Funds Available:** The X01 requires no funding from ECHO.

**Award Mechanisms:** X01 Resource Access

**Award Project Period:** 1-3 years

**Anticipated Timeline:** ECHO proposes publishing a PAR for the X01 in January 2025.