

A NEW EFFORT TO PROMOTE LIFELONG HEALTH: THE LIFE COURSE INTERVENTION RESEARCH NETWORK (LCI-RN)

BARRIERS TO TRANSLATING LCI RESEARCH

- Persistent gaps in our knowledge about precisely how and when to intervene
- A lack of a strong research and data infrastructure to support life course intervention studies
- A shortage of cross-sector community-based delivery platforms and flexible funding
- Shortcomings of existing education and training models to endow investigators with the life course research competencies needed to carry out this innovative work

OUR PARTNERS COME FROM THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

UCLA
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Pennsylvania State University
UNC Chapel Hill
Brown University
Johns Hopkins University
Tulane University
Drexel University
PEDSNet
DBPNet
AMCHP
CityMatCH
Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Family Voices
Help Me Grow
TECCS
All Children Thrive

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For the past two decades, there has been a growing recognition among researchers, practitioners, and policymakers of the central role that prenatal and early life experiences and exposures play in the development of lifelong health, and therefore in the potential benefits that could stem from more significant and strategic investments in maternal and child health development. Yet this increased understanding has not translated into the widespread development and implementation of life course-informed interventions capable of addressing the enormous challenges that today's children and families are facing. Behind this lag in translating evidence into impactful practice and policy lie a variety of barriers.

The Life Course Intervention Research Network (LCI-RN) represents a significant new investment by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) in addressing these barriers by supporting a multisite research infrastructure capable of designing, testing, and scaling innovative life course interventions. The network is comprised of a National Coordinating Center located at UCLA plus six Collaborating Research Entities, with leadership provided by a diverse group of experts from the country's top research institutions and MCH stakeholder groups. Leveraging the collective intelligence of a growing life course intervention research community, the LCI-RN will identify better ways of improving life course trajectories for children and families, with a particular emphasis on reducing health disparities among diverse and vulnerable populations.

Over the 5-year grant, the LCI-RN will:

- Design, develop, publish, disseminate, and regularly update an LCI Research Agenda
- Develop and operate an Innovation and Impact Incubator that enables the development of LCI studies
- Launch new multisite LCI research studies
- Provide training on priority topics to network members and cultivate a new generation of LCI researchers through an LCI Scholars Program
- Better understand the role of families, family interventions, and family development in life course health development
- Work to meaningfully engage families in both agenda-setting and the design, implementation, and evaluation of interventions
- Utilize a website, e-newsletters, webinars, and publications to accelerate the timely translation of LCI research
- Develop and implement an outreach, engagement, and fundraising plan to ensure network growth and sustainability