

Commonweal
(Bolinas, CA)

Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Total Award: \$200,000 over 1 year

Program Contribution

Environment Program, \$75,000

Health Program, \$75,000

Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic
Justice, \$50,000

To support the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) to address the need for greater shared information and activity in the emerging field of environmental health. CHE's work is aimed at building broad public constituencies, reaching across the issues of environment and health, and at forming new and unusual alliances across sectoral boundaries. This approach distinguishes CHE from organizations that fight toxics or defend the environment issue by issue, chemical by chemical or with a single constituency. CHE believes that it is necessary to craft a shared language and vision for the environmental health movement with a goal of improving human health by reducing exposure to toxicants in our bodies and the environment. In its first two years, CHE has built new alliances and developed a constituency base of over 800 organizations and leaders, including the American Medical Students Association, the American College of Nurse Midwives, the California Division of the American Cancer Society, as well as Environmental Defense, Pesticide Action Network and the Natural Resources Defense Council. CHE is now positioned to use NCF support to work with its Partners and other environmental health leaders to develop strategic initiatives that cut across traditional issue and sector categories, elevate connective frames (developed with the help of the Rockridge Institute), create new alliances, and go on the offensive in favor of clean production technologies, poison-free products and, ultimately, poison-free bodies.

Environment Program: *Objective I, Strategy 2, and Objective II, Strategies 1 & 2*

Health Program: *Objective II, Strategy 2*

Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice: *Objectives I & II*