

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: REACH CENTER CLIMATE AND HEALTH RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The REACH Center Climate and Health Research Fellowship is now accepting applications for the 2025 cohort! This fellowship is designed to support outstanding students who demonstrate academic excellence, have a strong interest in community-engaged work, and show a deep commitment to advancing health and environmental justice through equitable climate solutions. The program provides an enriching experience that includes mentorship, professional development, and financial support to help students achieve their goals.

About the REACH Center

The [Research and Engagement for Action on Climate and Health \(REACH\) Center](#) is a multi-institutional, NIH-funded exploratory center led in partnership by George Washington University, George Mason University, Howard University, and the Environmental Defense Fund. The REACH Center aims to bridge big data to climate solutions that advance health and environmental justice. Specifically, the Center leverages the power of novel geospatial datasets and research co-generation with governmental and nongovernmental partners to research health and equity impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation actions from local to global scales.

About the Fellowship Program

The REACH Center Climate and Health Research Fellowship Program will cultivate a collaborative cohort of three student fellows across REACH institutions, empowering them to engage effectively with community partners in identifying and implementing solutions to climate change and health challenges. Through this initiative, fellows and community partners will enhance their capacity for engagement and climate research, fostering connections that strengthen institutional collaboration and lay the groundwork for future research proposals.

This cohort of students, composed of one student from each partner institution (i.e., GWU, GMU, HU), will work collectively on an assigned project that is responsive to a selected community partner's needs. Supported projects will be aligned with REACH Center goals to leverage the power of big data for climate solutions that advance health and environmental justice. Fellows may be asked to assist with data collection, interpret large datasets for applications to local concerns, write reports, conduct literature reviews, prepare policy briefs, and assist with outreach and education such as community events, stakeholder meetings, town halls, and community listening sessions. The specific project that the cohort will work on is currently being finalized; however, examples of potential project types can be found in the Appendix.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must be currently enrolled as a **graduate student** at the master's or doctoral level at one of the REACH Center partner institutions (i.e., George Washington, Howard, and George Mason universities). This fellowship is open to graduate students in any discipline.

Fellowship Benefits and Expectations

Selected fellows will receive:

- A stipend of \$2,000 to be paid out in monthly installments throughout the course of the fellowship
- Access to mentorship opportunities with community organizations and faculty members
- Networking opportunities with peers and professionals in the field

Fellows are expected to:

- Spend approximately 120 hours engaged with the fellowship program (roughly 5 hours per week **from May 27 to December 8, 2025**)
- Participate in REACH Center activities (e.g., seminars and workshops)
- Prepare and present a summary of their fellowship work at the end of the term

Application Requirements

Interested applicants must submit the following materials:

- Applicant Information
- Resume or CV
- Current Transcript (Official or Unofficial)
- Reference Letter (*note*: must be from a faculty member at one of the partnering institutions)
- Responses to Essay Questions (see Appendix; *note*: response limit to 1,500 characters per question)

Selection Criteria

Applicants will be evaluated based on:

- Academic performance and achievements
- Prior experience
- Alignment of interests with the fellowship's goals
- Strength of recommendation letter and essay responses

Application Timeline

- **Application Opens:** March 10, 2025
- **Application Deadline:** April 13, 2025 (11:59 PM EST)
- **Review Process:** April 14, 2025 - May 4, 2025
- **Notification of Selection:** May 5, 2025
- **Fellowship Start Date:** May 27, 2025
- **Fellowship End Date:** December 8, 2025

How to Apply

Applicants must submit all required materials through the [Application Form](#). For questions or additional information, please contact Georgia Middleditch at gmiddleditch@email.gwu.edu.

Additional Information

For more details and frequently asked questions, please visit the [REACH Center webpage](#). We encourage all eligible students to apply and take advantage of this enriching opportunity!

Appendix

Types of projects the cohort may engage in

Sample Project on Air Quality Monitoring:

Fellows could work with community partners who are conducting air quality monitoring with low-cost sensors that measure particulate matter (PM) pollution. These sensors have been used in many citizen science applications around the country to understand how PM varies.

Fellows may be asked to assist community partners with the installation of monitors, conduct data analysis and interpretation, and estimate impacts on human health. They could also translate these findings into educational materials, publications, and/or policy documents together with community partners.

Sample Project on Health:

There is evidence linking health conditions such as asthma to environmental factors and climate change. Fellows could assist community partners to better understand these health risks as a prerequisite for developing mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The cohort of fellows may be asked to work with community partners to identify stakeholders, translate data into accessible language for community members, and incorporate climate science into health promotion activities.

Sample Project providing Technical Support to Organizations in the Community:

The cohort of fellows may be asked to identify and interpret data that explores the relationship between climate change and urban heat, local flooding, or access to green and blue space, and could work to explore mitigation and adaptation measures to improve the resilience of communities along the Anacostia River.

Application Essay Questions (1,500 characters max per response, including spaces)

Question One: Please describe your motivation for applying for this fellowship. How do you see this fellowship contributing to your academic and career goals?

Question Two: Climate, health, and environmental justice issues often require collaboration across disciplines and communities. How have you worked in interdisciplinary and/or community settings?

Question Three: What insights did you gain from working in an interdisciplinary or community setting?

Question Four: How does your background or experience prepare you to work on a team that aims to use big data to explore climate solutions that promote health and environmental justice?

Question Five: Describe a time you worked to analyze a complex problem. What was the challenge and how did you approach it?

Question Six: If given access to a large climate or health dataset, what question would you want to explore, and why? *[For example: access to remote-sensing data can be used to evaluate exposure to air pollution and effects on pregnancy outcomes. This could help identify disparities in health impacts, inform policy decisions, and support targeted interventions to improve public health in vulnerable communities.]*

Question Seven: Please describe any previous experience you have had with climate science, health, and/or environmental justice and any lessons you learned from that work.
