



RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE AND HEALTH CENTER

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 2026 REACH CENTER CLIMATE AND HEALTH RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The REACH Center Climate and Health Research 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-protective solutions for climate-sensitive risk factors. 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 Center leverages the power of novel geospatial environmental datasets and research co-generation with governmental and nongovernmental partners to co-develop research that explores health resilience solutions 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 and health challenges. Through this initiative, fellows and community partners will enhance their capacity for engagement and 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., GW, GMU, HU)***, will work collectively on assigned project(s) that are 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 health-protective solutions for climate-sensitive risk factors. 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 selected cohort will work on a selection of projects in partnership with the DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE). The specific project(s) that the cohort will work on are currently being finalized; however, examples of potential project types can be found below.



RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE AND HEALTH CENTER

Types of projects the cohort may engage in:

- Analyzing air quality data
- Developing policies that would help reduce electricity peak demand and bring more capacity online to serve District residents
- Exploring how outdoor & natural resources education impacts student SEL (social emotional learning) outcomes
- Monitoring the heat-reduction performance of cool reflective pavements on District of Columbia roadways
- Creating a report that examines all the challenges and solutions to completely electrifying residential and commercial sectors in DC
- Creating data migration best practices and efficiencies for utility affordability and utility assistance quarterly and performance reporting

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
- 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 June 2 to December 11, 2026**)
- 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



RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE AND HEALTH CENTER

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit the following materials to be eligible for review:

- 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 23, 2026

Application Deadline: April 20, 2026 (11:59 PM EST)

Review Process: May 4, 2026 - May 8, 2026

Notification of Selection: May 11, 2026

Fellowship Start Date: June 2, 2026

Fellowship End Date: December 11, 2026

How to Apply

Applicants must submit all required materials through the [Application Form](#). For questions or additional information, please contact Katie O'Donnell at reach@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!



RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE AND HEALTH CENTER

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 and health 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 health-protective solutions for climate-sensitive risk factors?

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 differences 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 and/or health, and any lessons you learned from that work.