



NIH Health and Extreme Weather Scholars Program

Applications are due: August 16, 2026 at 5:00pm ET

Background: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Health and Extreme Weather (HEW) Program is described here: [HEW Strategic Framework](#).

Program Overview: The NIH HEW Program seeks to bring scientists from academia and other non-federal spaces to NIH institutes, centers, and offices (ICOs) as part of its **HEW Scholars Program**. The goal of the HEW Scholars Program is to bring scientists working at the intersection of extreme weather, natural disasters, and health into NIH ICOs to share their knowledge and expertise with staff to build HEW research capacity at NIH. Scholars will work alongside NIH staff to advance the mission, goals, and prioritized areas of science outlined in the [HEW Strategic Framework](#) and help identify and address critical gaps in research in ICO-specific topics.

Details: Each scholar will be matched with and hosted by an interested [ICO](#) at NIH. Each participating ICO will designate a staff member(s) to serve as the scholar's ambassador(s). The ambassador(s) and scholar will collaboratively develop a workplan informed by both the scholar's expertise and the ICO's HEW capacity building needs.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 scholar position will be virtual, with opportunities for in-person interactions. *Scholars will be expected to attend an in-person HEW Program event during the week of March 22-26, 2027 at one of the NIH buildings in Maryland and a ~mid-to late January 2027 in-person meeting with the FY27 scholars cohort.*

Scholars will be expected to dedicate a portion of their time over an approximate 9-month period (approximately 8-10-hours per week, with flexibility based on the individual's availability and workplan timelines). Hours/schedule will be discussed during the interview process and agreed upon with the host ICO. Applicants should ensure their full-time employer, if applicable, is agreeable with this time commitment before applying. Applicants should be prepared to either reduce their full-time position commitments or complete the HEW Scholars Program workplan in addition to their full-time position commitments.

***Note:** The selection process involves several stages and review levels. Though applications are due on August 16, 2026, the HEW Scholars Program may not begin until mid-Fall 2026. Those who advance to the interview phase will be updated on the anticipated selection and onboarding timeline.*

Possible ICOs for Placement: Several NIH ICOs have expressed interest in hosting a HEW Scholar. Each scholar will have a host ICO but will be expected to engage in some NIH-wide activities given that the HEW Program is NIH-wide. *A list of possible host ICOs and their interest in a scholar are at the end of this announcement.* Each scholar and host ICO will develop a customized workplan with goals and deliverables.



Eligibility: U.S.-based and international scientists from the academic, non-profit, or private sectors are invited to apply. Candidates must hold a Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent degree and should be mid-career to senior scientists or equivalent. Candidates should have a strong publication record connected to extreme weather, natural disasters, and health. If their publication record is connected to extreme weather or natural disasters, but not health, there must be a clear explanation connecting it to the NIH mission and public health impact. Candidates should have experience and expertise in a health and extreme weather related field OR a field that intersects with those topics, including but not limited to: adaptation science, basic science, clinical science, community-engaged research, data integration, disaster preparedness and resilience, disease prevention, engineering, epidemiology, exposomics, genomics, hydrology, implementation science, intervention research, longitudinal research, mechanistic research, meteorology, nutrition research, physical sciences, population science, social/behavioral science, translational science, urban planning, etc.

If your area of expertise is outside a typical health/biological field, you will need to detail how it connects to NIH in the context of this program. **This is not a postdoctoral program or training program.** Candidates are to *bring* health and extreme weather expertise to NIH, not *gain* training or expertise *from* NIH. Candidates do not need to have an NIH funding record to apply. Individuals with active NIH grants or open grant applications are eligible to apply to this program. HEW Scholars who have served in past terms are not eligible.

Application Information: To apply, please email a cover letter and a resume/CV to HEWScholars@mail.nih.gov by 5pm ET on **August 16, 2026**.

1. Please provide a standard **resume/CV** that includes your work experience and incorporates the following information:
 - a. your full name, position title, affiliation, and the current city you reside in
 - b. a summary of your education/training (*institution, degree if applicable, completion date, and field of study*)
 - c. a completed list of publications and/or talks relevant to the field of health, extreme weather, and/or natural disasters
 - d. any relevant financial research support (*ongoing or past*)
 - e. any other areas you wish to highlight
2. Within the **cover letter** please provide:
 - how your area(s) of expertise would help build health and extreme weather research capacity and understanding at one or more of the participating NIH ICOs, as it relates to the ICO's mission and the NIH [HEW Strategic Framework](#)
 - if you have a preference, please detail which participating ICOs you would be most interested in being placed with and why
 - a vision statement describing your research focus and what you would like to contribute to the NIH in the area of health and extreme weather during your time as a HEW Scholar, as well as an overview of your interest in being a HEW Scholar
 - a proposed work schedule (timeline/hours)



Program Contacts: Please contact HEWScholars@mail.nih.gov for more information or with questions.

Compensation and Benefits: Financial compensation will be provided to scholars for their contributions to the HEW Scholars Program. Further discussion of the level of compensation will take place if an applicant advances to the interview stage of the selection process. Any compensation will be paid directly to the selected HEW Scholar, not to their employer. If the HEW Scholar's employer (i.e. university) requires reimbursement from their employee for time spent away from their full-time position, the HEW Scholar will be responsible for transferring the payment to their employer.

Potential Engagement Activities: Examples of activities that HEW Scholars might complete during their time with the program are listed below. This list is not exhaustive; the types of activities will vary depending on the host ICO's needs and the scholar's expertise.

- Plan an IC-wide conference on community-engaged research
- Develop a strategic guide for how to incorporate research on extreme weather health impacts into a program's existing framework and goals
- Organize and facilitate a public-facing speaker series on a different health and extreme weather topics
- Bring state-of-the-art methods and research findings to NIH program areas
- Conduct a literature or portfolio analysis of specific health impacts due to extreme weather
- Consult with intramural and extramural investigators
- Co-develop and participate in workshops and program meetings with NIH staff
- Collaborate with other members of the HEW Program's community of practice

Possible Host ICOs:

- **National Cancer Institute (NCI):** NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences seeks to host a HEW Scholar with expertise in the impacts of extreme weather on cancer prevention, cancer risk, cancer-related health behaviors, and cancer survivors. This includes (1) identifying datasets and data linkages that can answer whether and how extreme weather influences cancer risk and survivorship, either directly or indirectly through influencing cancer-related behaviors; and (2) creating geospatial linkages to identify areas affected by extreme weather and link to cancer outcomes and risk factors. The HEW Scholar shall serve as a subject matter expert and collaborator on activities such as developing publications, convening experts, identifying research gaps and needs, promoting research, and facilitating global partnerships.
- **National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI):** NHLBI is interested in a HEW Scholar with expertise on the impact of cumulative environmental exposures and extreme weather on heart, lung, blood and sleep (HLBS) health, risk factors, diseases and conditions, such as: sickle cell illness, anemias, asthma, chronic obstructive lung disease, heart failure, myocardial infarctions, arrhythmias, and hypertension. Research experience across the lifespan and among health disparate populations affected by cumulative environmental exposures is of interest, with particular emphasis on children, older adults, and pregnant women. Example topics of interest are the impact of chronic exposures on risk factors for HLBS disorders across the lifespan, the integration of environmental and HLBS-related health datasets, and community-engaged adaptation of interventions that promote resilience and sustainability.



- **National Institute on Aging (NIA):** NIA leads a broad scientific effort to understand the nature and impacts of aging and [Alzheimer's Disease \(AD\)](#) and [AD-Related Dementias \(ADRD\)](#), and to extend the healthy, active years of life. The institute's program priorities include supporting research to investigate factors that impact the health of older adults, and their preparedness, adaptation, resilience, and recovery from extreme weather and natural disasters. NIA welcomes proposals from scholars engaged in work to understand the behavioral, biological, and socioecological processes related to extreme weather that affect older adult health and wellbeing, as examined in humans, animals, and/or systems serving this population (e.g., healthcare infrastructure and delivery; evidence-informed practices for healthcare providers and caregivers, etc.). A HEW Scholar placed at NIA will help inform the institute's development of programmatic activities related to the impact of extreme weather on the health and wellbeing of mid- to late-life populations and those systems and individuals who care for them. The HEW Scholar may be positioned within one or more of [NIA's Research Divisions or Offices](#). They will work collaboratively with a dynamic multi-disciplinary team of NIA staff engaged in this effort that allows for a comprehensive understanding of the multi-faceted impacts of extreme weather on older adult health. Through this collaborative effort, NIA aims to foster a greater understanding of the challenges faced by older adults in the context of extreme weather, to enhance resilience, and to develop effective strategies for promoting their health and wellbeing.
- **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID):** NIAID is interested in a HEW Scholar with an interest in infectious diseases in general, and in water/food-borne, vector-borne and/or respiratory diseases in particular; and in immunological diseases or conditions that may be influenced by extreme weather events. The Scholar would provide their expertise to identify how environmental changes affect these diseases/conditions. This could include analysis of epidemiological and climatological data sets, review of the literature, and/or other activities that will contribute to our understanding of how environmental factors impact the incidence of infectious, respiratory, and immunological diseases/conditions on human populations.
- **National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS):** The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) intends to host an NIH Health and Extreme Weather (HEW) Scholar for FY2027 to strengthen research capacity at the intersection of environmental exposures, climate-related hazards, and human health. The scholar will help advance evidence-based research and identify critical future research priorities to inform effective prevention and intervention strategies for populations disproportionately affected by extreme weather events. The proposed research will focus on two high-priority areas:
 - 1. Pediatric Respiratory Health and Wildfire Smoke: Develop and evaluate science-based prevention and intervention strategies to reduce asthma incidence, exacerbations, emergency department visits, and hospitalizations among children during seasonal and endemic wildfire events in the United States.
 - 2. Cardiovascular Health in Older Adults During Wildfire Events: Develop and evaluate science-based prevention and intervention strategies to reduce cardiovascular events among older adults, particularly those with preexisting cardiovascular and other chronic health conditions, associated with exposure to wildfire smoke and related environmental stressors during seasonal and endemic wildfire events.



- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH):** NIMH has a strong interest in advancing research on how extreme weather influences the onset, course, and prevention of mental illnesses. A scholar with expertise in extreme weather would enhance NIMH's capacity to support basic, translational, and services research examining the biological, psychological, behavioral, and social mechanisms through which certain extreme weather exposure affects mental health; identify populations at elevated risk, including children, older adults, individuals with serious mental illness, and underserved communities; and inform the development of effective prevention, intervention, and implementation strategies. As extreme weather events become more frequent and severe, this expertise would strengthen NIMH's mission to transform the understanding and treatment of mental illnesses through research that addresses emerging environmental determinants of mental health and promotes evidence-based approaches to reduce their impact.
- National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD):** NIMHD's Extramural Divisions are interested in hosting a HEW Scholar to assist with developing programmatic activities related to promoting solution-oriented research addressing the impact of extreme weather on the health of [NIH-designated populations](#) experiencing health disparities in the United States. NIMHD emphasizes multidisciplinary research, academic-community partnerships, and a clear focus on population health in communities at high risk (e.g., outdoor workers, rural or coastal residents) for extreme weather-related harms. Potential activities that applicants might propose include the following activities focusing on extreme weather and health and health disparities research: portfolio analyses, convening workshops or seminar series, applying expertise to inform the development of research initiatives, and promoting awareness of advances across NIMHD. Specific extreme weather and health disparities areas of interest to NIMHD include, but are not limited to: research identifying novel solutions to address the impact of extreme weather on health disparities [metrics](#); community-engaged research; extreme weather readiness, adaptation/resilience, and/or mitigation interventions for populations that experience health disparities; the impact of extreme weather on mental health; impact of extreme weather on health systems; and using AI/data science to expand extreme weather and health disparities research.
- Office of Behavioral Health and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR):** The NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) is part of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI) within the NIH Office of the Director. DPCPSI directs activities to identify NIH-wide scientific opportunities, public health challenges, and knowledge gaps that merit further research. DPCPSI also develops resources for portfolio analyses and priority setting, supports program evaluations, and coordinates research activities across the NIH. The mission of OBSSR is to enhance the impact of health-related behavioral and social sciences research (BSSR) by identifying gaps and opportunities for BSSR; integrating BSSR within the larger NIH research enterprise; developing and coordinating BSSR initiatives with NIH ICOs; and communicating significant BSSR findings within the NIH and beyond. OBSSR seeks to host a HEW Scholar with interest in leveraging behavioral and social science approaches to advance understanding of the direct and indirect health impacts of extreme weather and the prevention and mitigation of these impacts. The HEW Scholar may have a background in anthropology, demography, environmental studies, health economics, psychology, public health, social work, sociology, or related disciplines. Scholars with expertise and interest in multi-level influences and methods;

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data analytics; social determinants of health; life course approaches (e.g., from maternal and infant health through childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and older ages); community-engaged research; or implementation science are encouraged to apply. The HEW Scholar shall serve as a subject matter expert and have opportunities to collaborate on activities such as identifying research gaps and needs, analyzing data for publication, organizing expert gatherings, and fostering collaborations with other NIH ICOs. The HEW Scholar will join a highly collaborative and dedicated OBSSR team and contribute meaningfully to efforts to accelerate the most impactful BSSR related to health and extreme weather.

- Office of Disease Prevention (ODP):** ODP is the lead office at the National Institutes of Health responsible for assessing, facilitating, and stimulating research in disease prevention and disseminating the results to improve public health. The mission of ODP is to improve public health by increasing the scope, quality, dissemination, and impact of prevention research supported by NIH. ODP seeks to host a HEW Scholar who would apply their expertise to support the Office's activities to advance science on extreme weather and prevention. The scholar's expertise will be leveraged to understand the state of the science on prevention interventions and preparedness strategies to prevent harmful health effects of extreme weather. The scholar will collaborate on conducting a systematic evidence review on extreme weather-related prevention, preparedness, and early response strategies to reduce extreme weather health threats. The scholar will collaborate on several activities to communicate extreme weather and prevention research gaps and opportunities, such as webinars, conference presentations, a white paper or publication manuscript. Examples of topic areas of interest include mechanistic effects of risk factors and social determinants of health (e.g., housing instability, food insecurity, access to health care) on extreme weather health threats, the intersection of prevention science and extreme weather research, translation of research evidence into solutions, community engagement in prevention and extreme weather research, preparedness and resilience, populations vulnerable to extreme weather threats, rigorous methods to advance extreme weather and prevention research. The objective is for the scholar to lend their expertise and collaborate with ODP staff to advance prevention and extreme weather research to improve health and quality of life.
- Office of Nutrition Research (ONR):** ONR seeks to host a HEW Scholar with expertise in efforts to further our understanding of the synergies that exist at the intersection of extreme weather/disaster, food systems, food environment, diet, nutrition and health across the life course. This would include application of new analytical approaches and methodologies to further our understanding of factors affecting the sustainability of both food/agricultural systems and sustainable nutrition in the context of the impacts of extreme weather and related disasters on health promotion, disease prevention and treatment. The Scholar shall serve as a subject matter expert and collaborator on activities such as developing publications, convening experts, identifying research gaps and needs, promoting research, and facilitating global partnerships.

If you have any questions, please reach out to HEWScholars@mail.nih.gov.

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