

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH LEADERS

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program

Be a Change Leader. Build a Culture of Health.

APPLICATIONS OPEN JANUARY 2017

Leadership development and funding opportunity for teams of researchers and community leaders—including those working in nonprofit, faith/spiritual, education, government and policy, social service, cultural, housing, public health, and other community-focused organizations.



Interdisciplinary Research Leaders is a groundbreaking program supporting teams of researchers and community partners to:

- Bridge the gap between the pressing needs of communities and health research and policy efforts.
- Collaborate in new ways to create a healthier, more equitable future.
- Develop leadership skills to advance a Culture of Health enabling all people to live longer, healthier lives now and for generations to come.

Interdisciplinary Research Leaders is led by the University of Minnesota, with participants working in their home communities across the country.

It is one of four national change leadership programs designed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to extend the influence and impact of leaders working to build a Culture of Health—one in which health is a guiding social value and everyone can attain the best health possible. Participants will become the next generations of leaders, collaborating across sectors to upend the status quo, address health disparities, and take bold steps to achieve greater equity in communities across the country.

“Improving health for every person takes all of us, including people working in health and far beyond. It requires rethinking how our communities, programs and policies impact health and equity.”

—Andriana Abariotes, MA
Executive Director
Twin Cities Local Initiatives
Support Corp. (LISC)
St. Paul, Minn.

Program Elements and Timeline

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Each year, *Interdisciplinary Research Leaders* selects a cohort of up to 20 teams of three mid-career individuals each, including two interdisciplinary researchers plus a community partner. To drive important change in every sector that impacts a Culture of Health, the program seeks participants from a wide range of health and nonhealth fields. Teams work and learn from their home community; participants do not need to relocate and can continue working or pursuing research full time.

Participants will:

- Attend at least two to three annual gatherings (travel funded by the program).
- Participate in leadership development trainings, coursework and mentoring via webinar and other virtual learning technology.
- Work on their research project with their team and national program advisers. Each year the program will select two themes for teams to address. For the cohort beginning in 2016 the options were “early childhood and health” and “housing, community development, and health.” With each new cohort, the program will announce two new themes exploring different aspects of a Culture of Health.
- Receive an annual stipend of \$25,000 per person and a one-time research project grant of up to \$125,000 for the team.

Upon completion of the three-year program, participants will have connections with a national group of leaders working in diverse sectors, and advanced skills including:

- Leadership and collaboration across sectors, professions, and disciplines
- Community engagement, including community-informed research and ability to influence systems and institutions
- Ability to strengthen programs and policies by applying research and data
- Deep understanding of equity, Culture of Health, research, and other concepts
- Communication and advocacy
- Issue-framing and public will-building

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH LEADERS: PROGRAM PARTNERS

AcademyHealth
Allina Health*
ISAIAH
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Minnesota Department of Health
University of Minnesota*

* (co-program lead)

CHANGE LEADERSHIP AT RWJF

In addition to *Interdisciplinary Research Leaders*, RWJF supports these other change leadership programs:

- *Health Policy Research Scholars* (for first- or second-year doctoral scholars from populations underrepresented in graduate programs)
- *Culture of Health Leaders* (for community-based teams)
- *Clinical Scholars* (for practicing clinicians)

Each program combines leadership development, mentoring, and collaboration across programs and sectors to build a Culture of Health. Details and application information at www.rwjf.org/changeleaders.

2017 TIMELINE



Timeline subject to change. Check our website for updates.

