

# COLLABORATE: ADVANCE COMMUNITY CHANGE



*Team from Oakland, California*



*Team from Kansas City, Missouri*



*Team from Allegheny County, Pennsylvania*

**INTER  
DISCIPLINARY  
RESEARCH  
LEADERS**

For teams of researchers  
and community partners  
**APPLICATIONS  
OPEN IN JANUARY**

"I believe the traditional research process needs to change to affect systems and policies that promote health equity by promoting greater inclusion of communities and community partners."

—*Briana Woods-Jaeger, PhD, IRL research partner, assistant professor of public health, Emory University* (PICTURED ABOVE: MIDDLE RIGHT)

VISIT [INTERDISCIPLINARYRESEARCH-LEADERS.ORG](http://INTERDISCIPLINARYRESEARCH-LEADERS.ORG) TO MEET MORE TEAMS.

## Lead the Way to a Culture of Health.

Interdisciplinary Research Leaders is a national leadership program for teams of two researchers and one community partner. These teams work with the community to design and conduct research to explore critical issues, then apply the findings to advance health and equity. Applied research of this kind is essential to building a Culture of Health, one in which everyone in America has a fair and just opportunity to achieve the best possible health and well-being.

- Collaborate with other innovative thinkers to lead change in programs and policies.
- Extend your work with a collaborative research project.
- Receive financial support for program participation and your research project.

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program

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*Team from Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Washington state)*



*Team from Arkansas*



*Team from Eastern North Carolina*

"In addition to working with two outstanding colleagues, I have the opportunity to engage policymakers around more holistic integrated approaches to address population health."

—*Nickolas Zaller, PhD, IRL research partner, associate professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health* (PICTURED ABOVE: MIDDLE RIGHT)

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Team from North Carolina



Team from Houston, Texas



Team from San Antonio, Texas

“This program helps me consider education’s intersections with other institutions and systems—criminal justice, medical, and social—that affect my students’ health outcomes and influence health equity.”

—Charnelle Green, MS, assistant principal, Guilford County Schools (PICTURED ABOVE: TOP LEFT)

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*Team from Alabama*



*Team from Puerto Rico*



*Team from Ohio*

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"I am invigorated to be part of a network of academics and community partners united by the potential for collaborative research to create meaningful social change."

—*Farrah Jacquez, PhD, associate professor, University of Cincinnati* (PICTURED ABOVE: BOTTOM LEFT)

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—Dominic Moulden, resource organizer,  
*Organizing Neighborhood Equity*

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"The Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program will deepen my ability to create an informed solution for youth violence prevention by leveraging evidence from research and a community engagement methodology."

—Michelle Becote-Jackson, MS, IRL community partner, senior vice president for youth development and social responsibility at the YMCA of Central Maryland

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**"The program provides us an opportunity to conduct a study that has both practical and policy implications for the most stigmatized individuals in our community."**

**—George Mugoya, PhD, assistant professor, University of Alabama**

*Billy Kirkpatrick, PhD; Safiya George, PhD; and George Mugoya, PhD, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team from Alabama. VISIT [INTERDISCIPLINARYRESEARCH-LEADERS.ORG](http://INTERDISCIPLINARYRESEARCH-LEADERS.ORG) TO MEET MORE TEAMS.*

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**—Farrah Jacquez, PhD, associate professor, University of Cincinnati**

*Michael Topmiller, PhD; Farrah Jacquez, PhD; and Jamie-Lee Morris, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team from Ohio. VISIT [INTERDISCIPLINARYRESEARCH-LEADERS.ORG](http://INTERDISCIPLINARYRESEARCH-LEADERS.ORG) TO MEET MORE TEAMS.*

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"The program provides the right fit of training, resources, mentoring, and guidance about program expectations to ensure success."

—*Maribel Campos, MD, MBA, MSc, FAAP, associate professor, University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus*

*Cristina Palacios, PhD, MSc; Alexandra Reyes, MEd, RDN; and Maribel Campos, MD, MBA, MSc, FAAP, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team from Puerto Rico.*

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"It's a great opportunity to contribute to an agenda that is driven by the community and uses evidence to achieve health equity."

—Julio López Varona, JD, lead organizer, *Make the Road Connecticut*

Julio López Varona, JD; Michele Kilpatrick, JD; and Julia Henly, PhD, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team from Connecticut. VISIT [INTERDISCIPLINARYRESEARCH-LEADERS.ORG](http://INTERDISCIPLINARYRESEARCH-LEADERS.ORG) TO MEET MORE TEAMS.

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**—Dominic Moulden, resource organizer, Organizing Neighborhood Equity**

Derek Hyra, PhD; Mindy Fullilove, MD; and Dominic Moulden, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team from New Jersey and Washington, D.C. VISIT [INTERDISCIPLINARYRESEARCH-LEADERS.ORG](https://interdisciplinaryresearch-leaders.org) TO MEET MORE TEAMS.

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"I am most excited about increasing my knowledge and awareness of how to build a Culture of Health by listening to the stories and gathering the resources provided through Interdisciplinary Research Leaders."

—Sabrina Kelley, resident services manager, Fresno Housing Authority

Yumiko Aratani, PhD; Irán Barrera, PhD; and Sabrina Kelley, MPH, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team from California. **VISIT [INTERDISCIPLINARYRESEARCH-LEADERS.ORG](https://interdisciplinaryresearch-leaders.org) TO MEET MORE TEAMS.**

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**"This is an opportunity to return to my roots of community-engaged research, alongside committed people from diverse backgrounds. Together we have the greatest impact on the health of our youth and communities."**

**—Phillip W. Graham, DrPH, MPH, director, Drugs, Violence, and Delinquency Prevention Research**

*Kristine Madsen, MD; Phillip W. Graham, DrPH, MPH; and Regina Jackson, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team from California. VISIT [INTERDISCIPLINARYRESEARCH-LEADERS.ORG](http://INTERDISCIPLINARYRESEARCH-LEADERS.ORG) TO MEET MORE TEAMS.*

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**"The community has the capacity to learn from one another to come up with solutions, in combination with research and data collection, to respond to their own needs with healthy solutions."**

**—Nikki Crowe, BSW, program coordinator, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College Extension**

Melissa Walls, PhD, MA; Nikki Crowe, BSW; and Joseph P. Gone, PhD, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team from Minnesota. **VISIT [INTERDISCIPLINARYRESEARCH-LEADERS.ORG](http://INTERDISCIPLINARYRESEARCH-LEADERS.ORG) TO MEET MORE TEAMS.**

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"The RWJF Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program will build long-lasting scientific and leadership collaborations and provide me with innovative and strategic tools to address social determinants of health in rural areas."

—*Jeanne-Marie Stacciarini, PhD, RN, IRL research partner, associate professor and director of diversity and inclusion at the University of Florida College of Nursing*

*Jeanne-Marie Stacciarini, PhD, RN; Antonio J. Tovar-Aguilar, PhD; and Gülcan Önel, PhD, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team from Florida.*

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**"We need community-driven processes involving multiple sectors and disciplines in a 'whole systems' approach to understanding problems and developing solutions."**

**—Karen Albright, PhD, MSW, IRL research partner, associate professor in the Department of Sociology & Criminology at the University of Denver**

*Maria de Jesus Diaz-Perez, PhD; Karen Albright, PhD, MSW; and Joe Sammen, MPH, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team from Colorado.*

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"As a Hawaiian woman deeply committed and involved with my community, Waimānalo, the IRL program will support my efforts in better articulating to my community what research is, how it is performed, what it means, and how it can support our efforts here at home and beyond."

—*Ilima Ho-Lastimosa, MSW, IRL community partner, practitioner of traditional Hawaiian and Chinese Medicine, and community coordinator at the Waimanalo Learning Center*

Jane Chung-Do, DrPH, MPH; Ilima Ho-Lastimosa, MSW; and Ted Radovich, PhD, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team from Hawaii.

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"Co-participation in the Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program provides the resources, training, and skills to allow me to better understand the factors influencing delivery of rural maternity services in northern New England and, more importantly, create the ongoing capacity to support and influence policymakers, payers, and care providers to create a rational system of care delivery in our communities for years to come."

—*Timothy Fisher, MD, IRL community partner, ob/gyn residency program director and interim director of the Division of General Ob/Gyn at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire*

*Stacey McMorro, PhD; Sarah Benatar, PhD; and Timothy Fisher, MD, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team from New Hampshire.*

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# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Each year, we select a new class of fellows to build their leadership skills, tap into funding for new research projects, get refreshed and inspired, and create more meaningful change. Collaborating across sectors and disciplines, they build connections that help shape health, well-being, and equity—such as education, neighborhoods, social services, income, and faith.

## APPLICATION CRITERIA

We welcome teams of three—two researchers and one community partner—interested in using applied research to build a Culture of Health. We encourage unusual interdisciplinary partnerships that bring fresh perspectives and approaches. **Teams apply to work on one of two annual themes.** Past themes, listed on our website, range from housing to youth development to rural health conditions; new themes are announced each January. Teams must include:

- Members from different disciplines and perspectives; see our website for examples.
- Two researchers, each with a terminal degree (PhD, MD, DrPH) or a master's degree with evidence of extensive research experience, and a desire to apply their work to create change.
- One community partner, with community-oriented knowledge and relationships, who is interested in gaining research capacity to make their work more powerful.

## PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Over the course of the three-year program, fellows will:

- Receive annual support of \$25,000 per person and a one-time research grant of up to \$125,000 per team—for salary, research costs, and more.
- Advance a team research project with support from national program advisers.
- Develop high-level leadership skills through mentorship, networking, and an advanced curriculum.
- Gain insights that fundamentally change their understandings of their communities, their work, themselves, and the relationships among these.
- Continue working in their home communities and apply knowledge to local needs.

## RESULTS: ENHANCED SKILLS AND LEADERSHIP

Upon completion, fellows will have connections with a national group of leaders working in diverse sectors, and will be equipped to:

- Lead and collaborate across sectors, professions, and disciplines.
- Engage with communities and influence systems and institutions.
- Strengthen programs and policies by applying research and data.
- Integrate equity, Culture of Health, and other concepts into current work.
- Frame issues and build public will to address them.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH LEADERS

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH LEADERS IS LED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA. PARTNERS INCLUDE:

AcademyHealth  
ISAIAH

### LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS AT RWJF

Interdisciplinary Research Leaders is just one of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's leadership programs for people who are interested in applying their expertise—no matter what they do—to help make our country healthier for all. Some other programs are:

- **Clinical Scholars**, for teams of experienced health care providers from diverse disciplines.
- **Health Policy Research Scholars**, for second-year doctoral students from underrepresented populations and/or disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Culture of Health Leaders**, for individuals from every field, profession, and sector.

Information about these and additional leadership programs at:  
[rwjf.org/leadershipforbetterhealth](http://rwjf.org/leadershipforbetterhealth)

## TIMELINE

Timeline subject to change. Check our website for updates.

