

# COLLABORATE: ADVANCE COMMUNITY CHANGE

## INTER DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH LEADERS

For teams of researchers  
and community partners  
APPLICATIONS  
OPEN IN JANUARY



*Team from Oakland, California*



*Team from Kansas City, Missouri*



*Team from Allegheny County, Pennsylvania*

"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](https://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

# 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.

