

**INTERDISCIPLINARY  
RESEARCH LEADERS**

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program

# **Interdisciplinary Research Leaders**

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Change Leadership Program

**2021 Call for Applications  
Informational Webinar  
March 18, 2021  
2:00-3:00pm Central Time**

# Webinar Overview

- Learn about RWJF's Culture of Health vision and leadership development programs
  - Read more at: [www.rwjf.org/changeleaders](http://www.rwjf.org/changeleaders)
- Understand the Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program and the 2021 funding opportunity
- Understand the application process
  - Call for Applications is available at: <http://interdisciplinaryresearch-leaders.org>
- Opportunity to ask questions



Moderator:  
Mandy LaBreche  
Associate Director of  
Operations, IRL

# Presenters



Nancy Fishman  
Senior Program Officer  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



Vanya Jones  
Co-Director  
Interdisciplinary Research Leaders



Toben Nelson  
Co-Director  
Interdisciplinary Research Leaders



Zinzi Bailey  
IRL Associate Director of  
Research Leadership & Practice



## Presenter

- Abby Hunt, Executive Director of Health Care Education and Training, Inc.
- Cohort 2 Alumna from [Team Indiana](#)



## Presenters

- **Tiffany Sizemore, Tammy Hughes, Jeffrey Shook**
- [Team Pittsburgh](#) - Current Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team





## Culture of Health

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# A National Movement: Building a Culture of Health

- Create a society where everyone has an equal opportunity to live the healthiest life possible
- Embrace a more integrated, comprehensive approach to health
- Requires unprecedented collaboration with everyone playing a role

# RWJF leadership development programs

- Clinical Scholars
- Health Policy Research Scholars
- Culture of Health Leaders
- **Interdisciplinary Research Leaders**
- Visit [www.rwjf.org/changeleaders](http://www.rwjf.org/changeleaders) for a summary of these RWJF programs and links to the program websites



# IRL is Seeking Leaders Who...

- Prioritize health equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Work collaboratively across sectors
- Embrace lifelong learning, complexity, and risk-taking
- Want to have real impact
- Are ready to take their leadership and influence to the next level



## **Interdisciplinary Research Leaders: Building a culture of health together**

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# Program Features

- Community-engaged action research
  - Cohort-specific research topic areas
- Development and training
  - Methods
  - Policy
  - Dissemination
  - Networking opportunities
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
  - Team
  - Cohort
  - Program

# Program Experience



# Program Activities

- Co-develop a community-engaged, community impactful research project
  - Project is the foundation for experiential learning
- 2-3 in person meetings per year
  - Cross-cohort engagement and networking
- Ongoing cohort activities
  - Team/program collaboration to support team research projects
  - Team/project-specific mentorship
  - Weekly webinars (sharing and learning)
  - Web-based mini courses

*Approximately 8 hours per week on IRL activities*

# Program Support

- \$25,000 annual fellow support
- One-time research project grants of up to \$125,000
  - RWJF allows the following indirect cost rates:
    - 12% - US colleges/universities and health or hospital systems
    - 20% - Nonprofit organizations
    - 0% - For-profit organizations and government entities
- Travel expenses
- Mentorship and professional development opportunities



# Summary of Eligibility Criteria

## Teams must be:

- Comprised of *three* mid-career individuals:
  - one community partner
  - two researchers
- Fully collaborative, co-leadership (no Principal Investigator)
- Each team member must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or individuals granted DACA status at the time of application

*See full criteria listing in Call for Applications*

# What do we mean by mid-career?

- Someone with experience
- Research partner
  - ~ 5 years post PhD and not retiring within 10 years
  - No graduate or post-doctoral students or trainees
- Community partner
  - ~ 5 years experience and not retiring within 10 years
  - Established relationship in the community

# Selection Criteria

- The proposed research project must be developed with an engaged community perspective
- The project is responsive to one of the two themes highlighted in the CFA
- Community partner can facilitate engagement with the community
- The team of fellows has a demonstrated commitment to interdisciplinary and community engaged work
- Research has strong potential to inform policy or action
- Ability to execute the research project within the timeframe and budget

*See full criteria listing in Call for Applications*

# Selection Process

- Selection committee of IRL program leadership, external consultants, IRL national advisory committee (NAC), and RWJF staff
- Semifinalists will be invited for online team interviews
- IRL staff and IRL NAC make funding recommendations
- RWJF makes the final team selection
- Cohort 6 will enroll up to 15 teams



## Community Partners

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# Communities can benefit from research that addresses their needs

- Authentic and reciprocal partnership between community leaders and researchers can help answer pressing questions that are meaningful to community members
- A process for research that engages an academic-community partnership can begin to address long standing barriers between researchers, community leaders, and community members
- Community engaged initiatives help frame how to translate research findings into practice and policy
- Community research partnerships are key to building relevant, credible evidence that drives equitable and sustainable change for improving health





## Community Partners in the IRL Program



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# Examples of Interdisciplinary Teams - Cohort 4

- Community Development and Health
  - **Landscape architect**, environmental psychologist, general pediatrician and public health researcher
  - Social sciences researcher, **manager of a 501[c](3) in 7 Southern U.S. states**, economist focused on health, housing and economic oppression
- Clinical practice, social services, and health
  - **Mental health professional**, trauma prevention and intervention researcher, researcher focused on intersections of public health and poverty to enact policy change
  - **Health services administrator**, general practitioner, vulnerable populations researcher



## Meet a current IRL team - Team Pittsburgh - Cohort 4

Improving Juvenile Indigent Defense and Health through Holistic Representation

- **Tammy Hughes**, Professor of School Psychology, School of Education at Duquesne University
- **Tiffany Sizemore**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Legal Education at Duquesne University Law
- **Jeffrey Shook**, Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh



## Curriculum

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# Program Experience



# IRL Curriculum Domains— Leadership Development Throughout



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# Curriculum Delivery and Application

- Hybrid model of delivery (in-person or virtual depending on the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Up to eight in-person sessions over three years
  - Annual IRL meeting in Minnesota
  - RWJF annual meeting, location varies
  - Washington, DC meeting
- Flexible, online courses
- Regular webinars for learning and professional development
- Targeted mentoring



## Action Research

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# Research Projects

- Focus the project on a topic that address one of the subthemes and has clear potential for action
- May be qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-method
- Are methodologically rigorous
- Are properly scaled and budgeted for a two-year study
- Variety of research designs are acceptable

# Program Experience



# Themes and Subthemes

- **Cohort 6 (2021) theme: Structural Racism -**

- Racism exists and contributes to health inequities.
- IRL seeks proposals that build evidence for solutions to eliminate the structures that perpetuate racial inequities in health.
- Proposals that seek to further document the existence or impact of structural racism and racist policies will not be selected.

## **Subthemes:**

- Structural Racism in health care
- Structural Racism and community health and well-being

# Subtheme 1: Structural Racism in Health Care

## Seeking projects-

- focused on solutions for eliminating structural racism in health care and health services delivery
- that address **public health crises** such as the **COVID pandemic**
- that generate community engaged evidence for equitable approaches for improving the wellbeing of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people in the healthcare setting

## Subtheme 2: Structural Racism and Community Health and Well-being

### Seeking Projects -

- focused on solutions for eliminating structural racism impacting community health and well-being
- that mitigate **processes and mechanisms through which policies, practices, and programs uphold structural racism in institutional systems** including access to housing, education, employment, criminal justice, and economic systems broadly
- that provide **solutions to reduce and eliminate less explicit barriers** (e.g., systemic disenfranchisement of political and social involvement for Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, redlining on Black communities)





**More Details on Applications**

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# How to Apply

- Each team of three individuals will submit one application
- Applications must be submitted through the RWJF online system
- Applicants must follow the instructions and use the templates provided in the RWJF online system
- Fellowship program applications from teams (due **May 5, 2021 by 3 pm ET**)
  - Proposed research project description
  - Team collaboration description
  - Individual leadership and research influence and aspirations
  - Biographical sketches of team members

# RWJF Online Application System

<http://my.rwjf.org>

## Interdisciplinary Research Leaders

### 2021 Call for Applications

Release Date: March 3, 2021 | Application Deadline: Wed, 5 May 2021

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is working alongside others to build a Culture of Health that provides everyone in America a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. We are facing many obstacles that pose challenges to this audacious vision—inequities in life expectancy across communities; high-cost health care but poorer quality of care and health; and more.

That's why RWJF supports a number of leadership programs that aim to develop a generation of leaders who see that we need new approaches to these pressing problems. These programs support and connect leaders who are **caring, curious, collaborative, and committed** to taking risks and boldly toward real pathways to change—and to achieving greater equity in communities across our country.

### Purpose

Interdisciplinary Research Leaders (IRL) is a three-year national leadership development program that aims to foster and support new interdisciplinary, action-oriented research collaborations. Achieving health equity—especially for communities of color, those in low socioeconomic positions, and Native populations—is a core value of the program. The aim for the 2021 IRL program is to generate high-quality, community-engaged research useful for dismantling structural racism and improving

### Application Deadline

May 05, 2021, 3:00 p.m. ET

[APPLY ONLINE](#)

### Key Materials

[Preview the full application before applying →](#)

[Full Funding Opportunity \(PDF\) →](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions →](#)

[Program Specific FAQs →](#)

### Key Contacts

IRL National Program Center  
Phone: (844) 210-9072 (toll-free)  
Email: [researchleaders@uminn.edu](mailto:researchleaders@uminn.edu)

## Interdisciplinary Research Leaders:

ID: 105465

[Print Application](#)

[Home](#)

[Resources](#)

[Invite Contributors](#)

[Cancel My Application](#)

### Notice:

Applicant Webinar: We will host an applicant webinar on March 18, 2021 (3–4 p.m. ET) (2–3 p.m. CT). For more information and registration, select the Resources link to the left.

### Instruction:

Welcome to the online application system for the Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program. [See More](#)

Deadline: May 5, 2021 03:00 PM ET  
50 days remaining

[Submit](#)

Status	Section	Description
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Eligibility Criteria</a>	Review the eligibility criteria and indicate if the applicant organization and all applicant team members meet these conditions.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Team Member Contact Information</a>	Provide contact information for the three team members.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Project Title</a>	Provide project summary information.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Project Information Questions</a>	Provide responses to team member and project questions.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Research Project Questions</a>	Provide responses to questions specific to the proposed research project.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Team Collaboration Questions</a>	Provide responses to team collaboration questions.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Team Member #1 Questions</a>	Provide responses to individual questions for team member #1.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Team Member #2 Questions</a>	Provide responses to individual questions for team member #2.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Team Member #3 Questions</a>	Provide responses to individual questions for team member #3.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Biographical Sketch</a>	Provide a biographical sketch for each team member.
<input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Outreach Efforts</a>	Tell us how you heard about us.

Application status: Not Started

Last updated on 03/16/2021 by Mandy LaFrenche

## 2021 Timeline

DATE	EVENT
March 3, 2021	Call for applications opens
March 18, 2021	Webinar for prospective applicants
May 5, 2021 (3pm ET)	Applications due
May-June	Applications reviewed
July	Applicant interviews (virtual)
July-August	Selection meetings
Late-August	Finalists selected
November 1, 2021	Official start date- IRL program begins
Late Winter 2022	Required in-person Interdisciplinary Research Leaders meeting (Location TBD)

# Program Partners



# Connect with IRL

- This webinar will be archived on the program recruitment website [interdisciplinaryresearch-leaders.org](https://interdisciplinaryresearch-leaders.org)
  - Sign up for program updates and funding alerts
  - Link to the call for applications
- Contact us at [ResearchLeaders@umn.edu](mailto:ResearchLeaders@umn.edu)
- Follow us on Twitter @IRLeaders
- Visit our program website: [IRLeaders.org](https://IRLeaders.org)





**Thank you for participating from all of us at IRL!**

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