Interdisciplinary Research Leaders
A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Change Leadership Program

2022 Call for Applications
Informational Webinar
March 17, 2022
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/changelleaders

• Understand the Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program and the 2022 funding opportunity

• Understand the application process
  • Call for Applications is available at: http://interdisciplinaryresearch-leaders.org

• Opportunity to ask questions
Presenters

Sheldon Oliver Watts
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

- Marcus Bernard, Associate Professor at Kentucky State University
- Cohort 2 Alumni from Team Black Belt Alabama
Presenters

- Carlton Turner, Mina Para Matlon, Erica Kohl-Arenas (not present)
- Team Mississippi - Cohort 4 Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team
Culture of Health

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH LEADERS
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
Structural Racism

- Structural racism refers to “the totality of ways in which societies foster racial discrimination through mutually reinforcing systems of housing, education, employment, earnings, benefits, credit, media, health care, and criminal justice” (Bailey et al., 2017)

- Manifested in policies, practices, and programs in ways that segregate and prioritize populations based on race and ethnicity

- Proposals based in institutional systems beyond health care

- Proposals that build evidence for solutions to eliminate the structures that perpetuate racial inequities in health, rather than proposals that seek to further document the existence or impact of structural racism
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 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

• Community partner
  • ~ 5 years experience and not retiring within 10 years
  • Established relationship in the community

• Research partner
  • ~ 5 years post PhD and not retiring within 10 years
  • No graduate or post-doctoral students or trainees
Selection Criteria

• The proposed research project must be developed with an engaged community perspective
• The project is responsive to the theme 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 7 will enroll up to 15 teams
Community Partners
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 Mississippi - Cohort 4
Equitable Food Futures: Activating Community Memory, Story, and Imagination in Rural Mississippi

- Mina Para Matlon, JD, MA, Managing director of Imagining America
- Carlton Turner, Founder of the Mississippi Center for Cultural Production (MCCP)
- Erica Kohl-Arenas, PhD, MS, Associate Professor in the Department of American Studies at the University of California, Davis
Curriculum
Program Experience

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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 the theme 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

6 MONTHS
Research Planning

2 YEARS
Research Implementation

6 MONTHS
Translation & Action

Research & Leadership Training

Alumni

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Theme

• **Cohort 7 (2022) 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.
  
  • Focused on **solutions** for eliminating structural racism in health care and health services delivery
Theme

• Cohort 7 (2022) theme: Structural Racism -
  • That generate community engaged evidence for equitable approaches for improving the wellbeing of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people
  • 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 4, 2022 by 3 pm ET)
  • Proposed research project description
  • Team collaboration description
  • Individual leadership and research influence and aspirations
  • Biographical sketches of team members
• Late Applications not accepted
Interdisciplinary Research Leaders

2022 Call for Applications

Release Date: March 2, 2022 | Application Deadline: Wed., 4 May 2022

Purpose
We believe that leadership for health equity is an essential lever for change, especially the complex change needed to dismantle structural racism. 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 2022 IRL program is to generate high-quality, community-engaged research useful for dismantling structural racism, improving health, and advancing health equity. There is an urgent need to identify solutions for eliminating and reversing the devastating effects of structural racism.

For the 2022 cohort, we will select up to 15 teams of three midcareer individuals each (two researchers and a community leader) from diverse disciplinary backgrounds or scientific perspectives. The applicant organization will receive up to $125,000 for each team’s specific research project, including $20,000 stipend per fellow per year. After the fellowship begins, up to $15,000 per year will be available from the national program center to the community employer, sponsoring institution, or another community organization directly involved in the research project.

Do you share our vision to help build a Culture of Health—and do you want to take the next step in your leadership journey? We encourage you to explore complete details about the program at the Interdisciplinary Research Leaders website and in the informational webinar for prospective applicants.

Key Materials

- View the full application before applying
- Full Funding Opportunity (PDF)
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Program-Specific FAQs

Key Contacts

IRL National Program Center
(844) 210-9072 (toll-free)
Email: researchleaders@sum.edu

http://my.rwjf.org
# 2022 Timeline

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<tr>
<td>March 2, 2022</td>
<td>Call for Applications opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17, 2022</td>
<td>Webinar for prospective applicants to learn more</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4, 2022</td>
<td>Applications due</td>
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<tr>
<td>May - June 2022</td>
<td>Applications reviewed</td>
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<td>Applicant interviews (virtual)</td>
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<td>August 2022</td>
<td>Selection meetings</td>
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<td>Late-August 2022</td>
<td>Finalists selected</td>
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<td>November 1, 2022</td>
<td>Official Start Date</td>
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<td>May 2023</td>
<td>First in-person meeting</td>
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Questions?

• We will now take questions from webinar participants

• Enter your question by clicking the Q&A feature

• We will sort and select questions of general interest

• Your name and institution will not be identified

• If your question doesn’t get answered during this webinar, please email your question to ResearchLeaders@umn.edu and we will respond via email
Applicant Questions

What are the expectations of the community partner?
Applicant Questions

If I am a PhD student or completing a Post-doc, am I eligible to apply as either the research partner or community partner?
Applicant Questions

What is the definition for a mid-career researcher?
Applicant Questions

Other questions?
Connect with IRL

• This webinar will be archived on the program recruitment website interdisciplinaryresearch-leaders.org
  • Sign up for program updates and funding alerts
  • Link to the call for applications

• Contact us at ResearchLeaders@umn.edu

• Follow us on Twitter @IRLeaders

• Visit our program website: IRLLeaders.org
Thank you for participating from all of us at IRL!

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