

CLIMATE AND HEALTH INTERDISCIPLINARY AWARDS (CHI)

Pre-proposal Application deadline:

May 25, 2022 (2:00 pm EST)

Invited full proposal deadline:

July 22, 2022 (2:00 pm EST)

BURROUGHS
WELLCOME
FUND 

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Key Dates	2
Program Background	3
Selection Process	4
Instructions on How to Prepare and Submit a Complete Proposal	5
Terms of Grant / Use of Funds	11

KEY DATES

Pre-proposal applications due	May 25, 2022
Invitation to submit a full proposal	June 21, 2022
Full proposal due	July 22, 2022
Notice of award	October 27, 2022
Award start date	December 1, 2022
Award end date	November 30, 2025

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund Climate and Health Interdisciplinary Award provides support for collaborative exploratory work that opens new ground for comprehensively assessing or mitigating the impacts of climate change on human health. This program will support both individual scientists and multi-investigator teams. Early career faculty and postdoctoral fellows nearing their transition to independence are especially encouraged to apply, whether individually or within teams.

Our goal is to prime new discovery in areas that are difficult to reach through discipline-specific, silo-driven approaches. Through this program we will provide flexible funding for conceiving and piloting work that will grow into productive and informative collaborations among researchers approaching connected questions from fields that usually do not interact.

These awards will support research and research coordination to unravel the relationships of climate change and human health. The awards are meant to stimulate development of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to problems with interconnected and potentially cumulative impacts on human health in general, and vulnerable populations, specifically.

Projects must draw on the basic or applied biomedical sciences—disciplines ranging from biochemistry to population health, including public health research focused on social justice and equity—collaborating with disciplines beyond biomedicine, for example field ecology, agricultural sciences, veterinary medicine, law, public policy, other applied social sciences, geological and planetary sciences, architecture, engineering, mathematics, communications, or other relevant disciplines appropriate to the research proposed.

Proposals should be driven by broad questions that present significant potential for evidence-based discovery. Proposed aims must be measurable, well-articulated, substantial, achievable, and must include not only planning activities but also scholarly research findings. Projects in environmental health, health disparities, and One Health are competitive for this program when climate change is addressed as a core element. Solutions and insights from both global and hyperlocal viewpoints are of interest.

Examples of projects might include but are not limited to the following:

- A community-based assessment of health literacy regarding climate change
- A neighborhood initiative to support use of local green space and increase physical activity
- The role of climate change (e.g., floods, heat) in exacerbating vector borne-, and non-communicable diseases (NCDs)
- Using “big data” to predictively model how vulnerable populations, especially those with existing health burdens, are impacted by climate change.

Proposals must be submitted by a single US or Canadian institution, which will serve as the sole payee. Proposed teams may include researchers from beyond the US and Canada, including those from Low- and Middle-income countries (LMICs).

BWF values diversity, equity, and inclusion both in researchers and in the places research is conducted. We encourage proposals from minority serving institutions and from small, medium, or large organizations in rural, urban, or other settings.

Award recipients will be expected to participate in BWF network development activities and interdisciplinary research career development activities associated with this award.

SELECTION PROCESS

Selection will be based on the potential of the proposed project to establish sustainable collaborations that will find new ways to cope with, mitigate, or change the human health impacts of temperature change, ecological changes, or population changes associated with shifts in climate.

A scientific advisory committee with members drawn from multiple interdisciplinary fields will review proposals and make recommendations for funding. Up to three awards will be made annually.

Selection criteria include:

- Importance/potential impact of the problem the research project addresses
- Innovation that the trans-disciplinarity will facilitate
- Background and accomplishments of the investigator or investigators proposing the research
- Strength of the collaborative plan
- Feasibility of the planned approach
- Commitment of the institution(s) to the interdisciplinary career development of those driving the project. Postdoctoral fellows and early career faculty applicants should demonstrate that they are in an environment that appreciates the challenges of interdisciplinary work and the extra effort required to build relationships across multiple fields, as documented by a letter of support submitted by each institution.

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A COMPLETE PROPOSAL

Application Process

Applying for this award is a two-stage process:

- 1. Pre-proposals.** Interested candidates who meet the eligibility criteria may submit one online pre-proposal through BWF's Internet Grant Application Module (IGAM) by **May 25, 2022 2:00 pm Eastern Time**. Though the pre-proposal is short, it should be well thought out and prepared with care: only a fraction of those submitting pre-proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal.
- 2. Full proposals.** Submission of full proposals will be by invitation only after review of pre-proposals. By June 21, 2022, those who make it to the next round will be invited to submit a full research proposal. Instructions on how to prepare a full research proposal will be provided by email with the invitation to participate. Full proposals will be due **July 22, 2022 by 2:00 pm Eastern Time**.

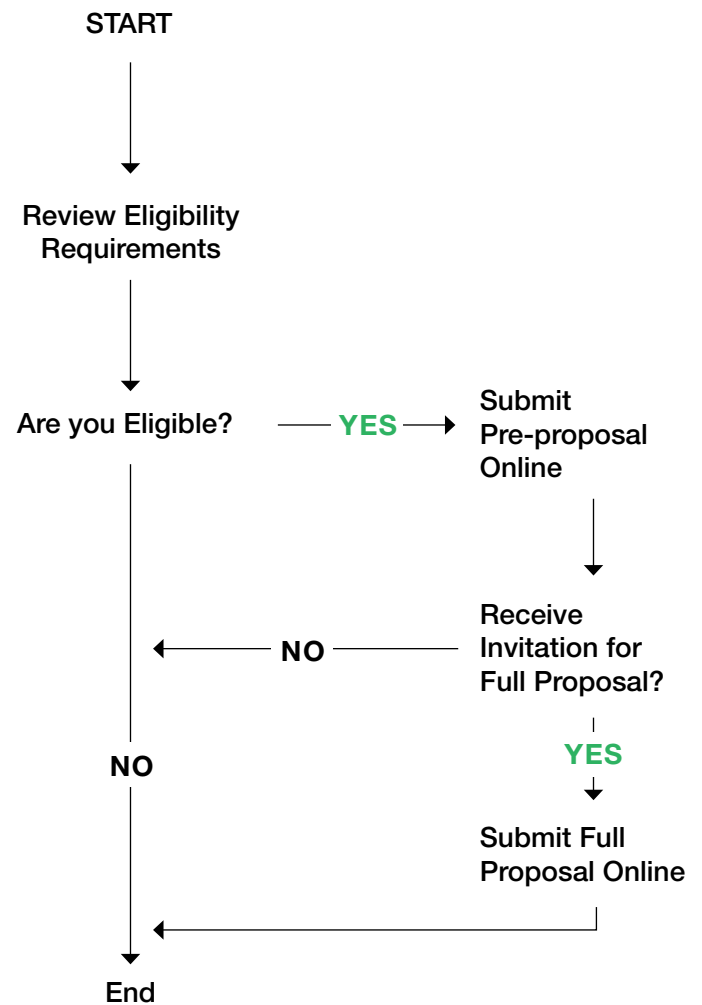
Invited Full Proposal Elements:

- Institutional Letter(s) of Support from the applicant's institution and the partner's institution (if applicable)
- Biosketch (NIH format) for the applicant and partner (if applicable)
- Project Plan (5-page limit)
- Timeline and plan for the proposed project (2-page limit)
- Budget and Budget Justification (template provided)
- Reprints (optional)
- Signature Page form (template provided)

All communications, including the invitation to submit a full proposal and declinations, will be made through email.

BWF does not provide critiques of pre-proposals or of full proposals.

Application Process Workflow



How to Submit an Online Pre-proposal Application

To begin a pre-proposal submission use this link: [pre-proposal](#)

To return to a pre-proposal already in progress you must use this link: [saved pre-proposal](#)

Applicants should bookmark this page to return to a pre-proposal in progress.

Pre-proposal Elements and Checklist

A complete pre-proposal consists of fields submitted through the online IGAM application plus several PDF attachments. The detailed components of the complete pre-proposal are shown below

Online pre-proposal form – available through IGAM *(see links above)*

- Applicant Information
- Applicant Demographics
- Institutional Information
- Partner Information (if applicable)
- Proposal Information

Proposal Attachment (Single PDF)

Prepare in advance the following required documents. Combine and order the supporting materials and upload into one (1) PDF file. Name the file using this format only: LastName, FirstName CHI 2022.

[Download Forms and Templates](#)

A. Cover Sheet

Name
Institution
Education and Training Background
Project Title
Keywords
Precis

B. Five Critical Questions

1. What is your proposed research question? *(Up to 50 words/~250 characters)*
2. How will your interdisciplinary approach shed new light on the question? *(Up to 200 words)*
3. How is the proposed work important for mitigating the impact of climate change on human health? *(Up to 200 words/~1000 characters)*
4. What about your outlooks/backgrounds/training gives you great insight into your research question? (Solo applicants should describe how they will bring in interdisciplinary viewpoints.) *(Up to 100 words/~500 characters)*
5. How is this work innovative and different from your usual research approach(es)? *(Up to 100 words/~500 characters)*

C. Biosketch

Use NIH biosketch format. A Biosketch should be submitted for the applicant and the partner (if applicable).

D. Partner's biosketch (if applicable)

Use the NIH biosketch format.

Additional Attachments

A. Signature Page

Using the template provided, complete the form including signature of the applicant and an authorized signing official of the institution.

B. IRS Determination Letter

Upload IRS determination letter showing non-profit status.

Submission Process

Upload a single, combined PDF file containing all of the proposal documents to the “Attachments” tab of the online application. Additionally, upload the signature page and IRS determination letter showing non-profit status. Click the “Review Your Application” on the Attachments tab to see if any errors are identified in your application. If the “SUBMIT” button does not become available, check your work. All information must be provided before the “SUBMIT” button is available. Click the “SUBMIT” button to transmit the application. An automated message will confirm that the application was successfully submitted. If you do not receive a confirmation email, your application has not been successfully submitted.

Note:

Pre-proposals will not be accepted after 2:00 pm Eastern Time on May 25, 2022. The online application system shuts down automatically at the deadline and the SUBMIT button will no longer be available. Plan to submit your application well in advance of the grant deadline to allow adequate time to troubleshoot any issues. **NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED.**

After the deadline, applicants with incomplete pre-proposals and those not adhering to instructions will be disqualified.

Only pre-proposals submitted through BWF’s online application website IGAM will be accepted.

How to Submit an Online Full Proposal Application

An email will be sent to the invited candidate with a link to the full proposal application. Applicants should bookmark this link to return to the full proposal in progress. The link is **not** on the BWF website.

Full Proposal Elements and Checklist

A complete full proposal consists of fields submitted through the online Internet Grant Application Module (IGAM) application plus several PDF attachments. The information in the data fields is carried over from the pre-proposal application, so please make sure the information is correct and update if needed. The detailed components of the complete full proposal are shown below.

Online full proposal form – available through IGAM (see invitation email)

- Applicant Information
- Applicant Demographics
- Institutional Information
- Partner Information (if applicable)
- Proposal Information

Proposal Attachment (Single PDF)

Prepare in advance the following required documents. Put the supporting materials in order and combine into a single PDF. Name the file using this format only: **LastName, FirstName CHI 2022 Full App**, then upload the file.

[Download Forms and Templates](#)

A. Institutional Letter of Support

The Institutional Letter of Support should be written on behalf of the applicant's institution by the chair, dean, division director, executive director or other senior official who can best communicate the institution's commitment to the applicant and the applicant's fit within the institution's plans and ambitions. **This statement of the institution's investment in and commitment to the applicant's scientific, academic, and personal development is a critical part of a successful application for this award.** Letters that lack detail, specificity, or clear enthusiasm for the applicant and the project can undermine an otherwise competitive proposal.

- The letter should describe the focus and direction of the institution's programs that are relevant to the proposed work and discuss how the proposed project fits into the organization. The letter should also describe all program and institutional support that will be provided for the candidate, including such things as salary support, and protection of a portion of the grantee's time for the project.
- The letter must contain a signature and a signature block and be on institutional letterhead.
- The letter should be forwarded to the applicant for inclusion in the online application.

B. Biosketch

Use NIH biosketch format. A Biosketch should be submitted for the applicant and the partner (if applicable).

C. Project Plan

(5-page limit) In no more than five pages (including figures, tables, graphs, and images), describe the Project Plan. It should be a complete, cohesive, and coherent document that is easy to read. In the order listed below, the plan should describe:

- Specific aims.
- Background and significance.
- Details of the proposed project.
- Long-term objectives.
- Use standard 11- or 12-point font for the text, and no smaller than a 9 to 10-point font for figures, legends, and tables. This requirement will be strictly enforced. Text must be single-spaced, with one-half inch or larger margins on all sides. Number the pages of the research plan. Do not include a table of contents or appendices.

D. Timeline and Plan for Proposed Project (2 page limit)

In no more than two pages, describe the timeline for the proposed project. Use standard 11- or 12-point font. Text must be single-spaced, with one-half inch or larger margins on all sides.

E. Budget and Budget Justification

Using the Budget Form provided, prepare a budget that explains how the funds will be utilized, to include the following:

- Proposed research expenses in general categories (e.g., equipment, consumable supplies, and travel).
- Summary justification of budget expenses.
- Justification for proposed use of the award for salary support for the applicant or for other laboratory or personnel who will work with the applicant.

Budget stipulations:

- No indirect costs may be charged against the grant. Administrative support for teams' work and benefits for salaries paid by the award are allowable as direct costs.
- Funds may be used flexibly for items such as equipment, consumable supplies, meetings of the collaborative team, publication costs and travel to scientific meetings.
- Equipment purchases beyond \$20,000 per year and travel costs beyond \$8,000 per year require written authorization from BWF.
- See page 11 for additional budget details.

F. Reprints (optional)

Provide up to three publications or manuscripts submitted for publication that demonstrate the applicant's capabilities and relevant research accomplishments.

Additional Attachments

A. Signature Page

Complete the Signature Form using the template provided. Include signatures of the applicant and an authorized signing official.

B. IRS Determination Letter

IRS Determination Letter showing non-profit status.

Submission Process

Upload a single, combined pdf file containing all of the proposal documents to the “Attachments” tab of the online application. Additionally, upload the signature page and IRS determination letter showing non-profit status. Click the “Review Your Application” option on the Attachments tab to see if any errors are identified in your application. If the “SUBMIT” button does not become available, check your work. All information must be provided before the “SUBMIT” button is available. Click the “SUBMIT” button to transmit the application. An automated message will confirm that the application was successfully submitted. If you do not receive a confirmation email, your application has not been successfully submitted.

Note:

Full proposals will not be accepted after 2:00 pm EST on July 22, 2022. The online application system shuts down automatically at the deadline and the “SUBMIT” button will no longer be available. Applicants should plan to submit applications well in advance of the grant deadline to allow adequate time to troubleshoot any issues. **NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED.**

After the deadline, applicants with incomplete proposals and those not adhering to instructions will be disqualified.

Only full proposals submitted through BWF online application website IGAM will be accepted.

Questions?

Questions should be directed in advance to BWF program staff by contacting:

Victoria McGovern, Ph.D., Senior Program Officer
vmcgovern@bwfund.org, 919-991-5112

Darcy Lewandowski, Program Associate
dlewandowski@bwfund.org, 919-991-5132

TERMS OF GRANT / USE OF FUNDS

Awards will be for a **total of \$375,000** to be distributed over **3 years**. Three rounds of grants are planned. Approximately three awards will be made in each round.

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund does not provide institutional overhead and indirect costs may not be charged against this award. Administrative support for teams' work and benefits for salaries paid by the award are allowable as direct costs. This award can be used to buy out investigators' and collaborators' time as well as for traditional project-related costs.

BWF makes awards to public or private non-profit organizations in the United States and Canada, including degree-granting academic institutions, research institutes, teaching hospitals, scientific societies, and other non-profits on behalf of the principal investigator. The payee institution is responsible for disbursing funds and for maintaining adequate supporting records and receipts of expenditures. Payee institutions may budget to support collaboration with researchers in LMICs.

The support allocated for research is under the control of the principal investigator and may be used flexibly for items such as equipment, consumable supplies, meetings of the collaborative team, publication costs and travel to scientific meetings. Awards may have up to three co-PIs, but the award will be paid to a single institutional unit. Postdoctoral fellows may serve as co-PIs. Prior approval by BWF is required when, within an award year, purchases of equipment exceed \$20,000 or travel costs exceed \$8,000.

During the award period, unused research funds may be carried over to the succeeding year. The principal investigator may receive a no-cost extension; requests explaining why an extension is needed must be submitted in writing at least two months prior to the end of the award. At the termination of the grant period, grant balances of \$500 or less may be retained by the institution.

For grant recipients in the U.S., the administrative fee is intended to cover the cost of medical insurance and other benefits, such as retirement. For grant recipients in Canada, the administrative fee is to be used as a contribution to the employer's benefit plan.

Award recipients may not hold concurrent BWF awards.

Questions?

Eligibility inquiries should be directed in advance to BWF program staff by contacting:

Victoria McGovern, Ph.D., Senior Program Officer
vmcgovern@bwfund.org, 919-991-5112

Darcy Lewandowski, Program Associate
dlewandowski@bwfund.org, 919-991-5132