

## VUMC Limited Submission Opportunity

### Burroughs Wellcome Fund: Climate + Health Excellence (CHEX) Centers

*Applications due November 21, 2024*

**VUMC:** These instructions are for VUMC investigators. VU investigators should apply through [InfoReady](#) and address any questions to [VU-LSO@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:VU-LSO@vanderbilt.edu).

#### **Overview**

VUMC may submit one proposal to the [Burroughs Wellcome Fund: Climate + Health Excellence \(CHEX\) Centers](#) funding opportunity.

This is a new institutional research and training opportunity that will help institutions bridge the gaps between fields that will have important roles to play in understanding the impacts of climate change on human health and diminishing their effects. This grant will support new discovery toward defining the health impacts of climate change, developing potential interventions, translating discovery science into practical application, and outward-facing work that can help public understanding of Climate + Health or strengthen connections between research and communities whose health has been harmed by climate change. The goal of the sponsor is to help these Centers of Excellence achieve their strategic goals by supporting activities that help build stable collaborations between people, departments, and institutions. The CHEX awards will provide **up to \$2,000,000 a year for five years**. The sponsor anticipates that up to three awards will be made over two rounds of applications.

#### *Basic, Applied and Translational Research*

This program is meant to support institutions or consortia that have already begun to work toward taking on the problem of climate's impact on health. Consortia might include neighboring institutions with already established collaborations, but of more relevance to this RFP are consortia of institutions united by common interests, for example in the health of residents of the Appalachian Mountains or the Great Lakes region, an urban focus, or a focus on rural life, etc. Whether collaborators are at a single institution or a consortium, the sponsor is interested in **lasting connections developed between those working with basic and applied approaches**. The sponsor anticipates that support from CHEX will accelerate and enhance the cultivation of new common ground for high-impact basic research, invention and implementation that can practically change the impacts of climate change on human health.

#### *An Outward Focus*

Conveying to the public ideas about how climate change and human health are linked is important for the flow of insights from discovery research into health interventions. For this reason, **successful applications will bring general (non-postgraduate) education or public communication into their vision of shared common ground**. Either education or

communication should be a substantial element of the proposal. Proposals that sacrifice depth to include elements of both may be weakened by the effort: it is better to go deep into one area than to lightly “tag both bases.”

### *Post-Graduate Training*

Institutions or Consortia supported by these awards will **develop new lines of research, training, and graduate education** that will both energize faculty collaboration and expand interdisciplinary research opportunities for trainees. What graduate departments learn from exploring postgraduate students’ interests in the intersection of climate change and health science may be invaluable to developing educational resources and career guidance for K12 and college students. The training grant element will not be more than 20% of a funded center’s budget

See the [full RFP for more information](#).

### **Required Activities**

1. Interdisciplinary research activities leading to mechanistic insights for climate change consequences for human health, with potential for mitigation or prevention of health effects.
2. A training grant element not to exceed 20% of budget.
3. Education-focused work on Climate + Health OR communication-focused work on Climate + Health.

### **Potential Additional Components**

1. Activities including policy development and implementation.
2. Economic modeling of climate change activities.
3. Convening activities for related stakeholders
4. In-house pilot grant programs to stimulate new initiatives in Climate + Health

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Consortia may include institutions outside the US or Canada, but only one institution, the institution submitting the proposal, will be paid. Subcontracts are allowed. Research groups working at national laboratories and within the federal government are allowable as partners.
- **BWF does not provide overhead.** Personnel costs, including fringe benefits, are allowed. The administrative costs of running the program are allowable direct costs. Pass-through charges on money sent to other institutions are not allowed. Student tuition is allowed only during the time a student is actively supported by the formal training grant elements proposed.

### **Internal Submission Instructions**

Anyone interested in being considered as VUMC's nominee must submit the following (in a single PDF) to [LSO@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:LSO@vanderbilt.edu) by **November 21, 2024**.

1. Brief (2-page maximum) research proposal including summary budget (overhead not allowed);
2. Letter of support from department chair/center director;
  - a. Letter must also acknowledge that this grant does not allow indirect costs. This statement can be used/modified within the letter: "The Department recognizes that this grant does not allow indirect costs and will commit to covering any associated indirect costs per applicable institutional policy."
3. NIH Biosketch

Submissions should reference the program name in the subject line of the email.

Any questions about this opportunity or the LSO process may be directed to

[LSO@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:LSO@vanderbilt.edu).