



Interdisciplinary Research Leadersⁱ

BACKGROUND

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is working alongside others to build a Culture of Health that provides everyone in the United States a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. Many obstacles pose challenges to this audacious vision. Life expectancy varies widely based on where people live, learn, work, and play. We spend more for our health care than any other resource-rich nation, yet the quality of our health care and our overall health status don't reflect that investment. Our population is increasingly diverse, yet inequities in health and health care access persist.

That's why RWJF supports several leadership development programs: We know that our nation needs a generation of leaders who recognize that to solve these pressing problems, we must approach them in a new way. Our leadership development programs are built to develop, support, and connect leaders who are:

- **Caring**, recognizing that leadership is relational, and that genuine care for others is at the heart of good leadership.
- **Curious**, with a genuine desire to learn, listen, connect, and grow.
- **Collaborative**, with a deep understanding that the changes we seek cannot be accomplished by any one person, organization, or sector, that working together with other change-makers across boundaries is essential.
- **Committed** to taking risks and acting boldly to move beyond dreams toward real pathways to change—and to achieving greater equity in communities across our country.

Do you share our vision for leadership—and want to take the next step in your leadership journey? We encourage you to explore the [Interdisciplinary Research Leaders](#) program, highlighted in this call for applications (CFA)—or go online to visit our [program finder](#) to find the leadership development program that's right for you.

ABOUT THE INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH LEADERS PROGRAM

The broad goal of the Interdisciplinary Research Leaders (IRL) program is to produce diverse interdisciplinary leaders who conduct and apply high-quality, community-engaged, action-oriented research in order to drive improvements and promote equity in the health of their communities. The IRL fellowship emphasizes a shared leadership approach to research and seeks to enhance existing networks in both the academic and community settings. Central to the IRL goal is a commitment to deep community collaboration in order to build relevant, credible evidence that drives equitable change to improve health.

Accordingly, the program will recruit and select teams of three people—two researchers and one community leader—to become IRL program fellows. These IRL teams will join together as a diverse cohort of fellows who will participate in a three-year program. During this time, fellows will receive:

- Leadership training

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- Opportunities for community-academic partnerships
- Mentoring
- Extensive opportunities to develop and grow networks
- Expert consultations for research methods
- Both fellowship and research funds

With these resources, IRL fellows, both researchers and community leaders, will be better equipped to effect change and become leaders in action-oriented research.

Program Activities

We will support up to 15 teams (45 fellows) in this cohort. Each cohort focuses on a different designated topic area, called a theme, which is announced in each year's call for applications.

This program is organized to provide regular interaction with other program fellows and is structured by a program curriculum. Each of the three fellows on a team should expect to consistently spend at least eight hours per week on program-related activities during their time as an IRL fellow. During the first four months, the team will focus on becoming oriented to the IRL curriculum and experience, refining their research plan, and gaining program approval to conduct their proposed research project. In the subsequent two years, the team will focus on executing their research project and on broader research leadership development activities. The final six months will be focused on translating their research findings into action. Throughout the program, fellows will develop knowledge and skills for dissemination of evidence arising from their research project. Distance learning, in-person meetings, and tailored mentoring will be provided throughout the fellowship. Over the duration of the program, teams are expected to participate in regular (e.g., weekly) online learning activities, networking and collaborative opportunities, and occasional (e.g., two to three times per year) in-person or virtual meetings.

Teams are expected to develop a detailed proposal for a specific research project, execute the research project, and disseminate findings. This research project is the core activity of the IRL fellowship and is expected to provide an emergent learning experience for teams, result in impactful knowledge to advance a Culture of Health for their community, and contribute to the scientific knowledge on the chosen topic.

Team research projects should focus on issues for which there is clear potential for action and change. They must be methodologically rigorous and properly scaled for a two-year study and budget constraints. Research questions should be developed using a community-engaged process and provide results for actionable change.

Research conducted by IRL teams should draw from multiple scientific disciplines, especially those typically underrepresented in health research (e.g., civil engineering or anthropology). Research designs may utilize quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods, including evaluations of interventions; longitudinal and experimental designs; financial, economic or cost-effectiveness studies; health impact assessments; natural experiments; policy analyses; existing (secondary) data analyses; focus groups/in-depth interviews, surveys or other action-oriented designs. Studies focused on drawing causal inferences will be prioritized. Community engagement and partnership is essential.

Applicants are required to consider and describe how their proposed research projects reflect engagement of community members throughout their research project. Community input is to be included in the process of identifying research questions, data collection, data interpretation, and dissemination of findings. The work of the funded IRL team is to elevate approaches for community leaders to inform how research can be used for meaningful change that improves health. These goals are the collective responsibility of all three team members.

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Program Support

The IRL program will support these activities by providing: financial support for IRL fellows' time; infrastructure for online collaboration; expert consulting and mentoring; and grant funds for each IRL team's research project.

Themes

The IRL program requires applicant teams to address focus areas, called themes. IRL requires such focus in order to build cohort cohesiveness and to generate a critical mass of evidence for change.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to propose scientific research that reveals actionable solutions for improving the health of populations through public or private sector policy and/or programs. Achieving health equity—especially for communities of color; those in low socioeconomic positions; and Native populations—is a core value of the program. To support these objectives, IRL prioritizes credible action-oriented research.

The overall theme for the 2021 IRL CFA is structural racism and health. 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” (see Bailey et al., 2017, “Structural racism and health inequities in the USA: evidence and interventions,” *The Lancet*). Structural racism is manifested in policies, practices, and programs in ways that segregate populations based on race and ethnicity, and create barriers to social opportunity and upward mobility. Structural racism results in systemic prejudicial treatment that disproportionately increases difficulty in accessing quality health care; education; employment; housing; fair treatment in the criminal justice system; and full participation in political systems and processes. There are decades of research that indicate that these barriers and threats drive marginalization and result in inequity in community health and well-being among Black, Indigenous, and other people of color. There is an urgent need to identify solutions for eliminating and reversing the devastating effects of structural racism.

Racism exists and contributes to health inequities. The IRL program seeks 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 and racist policies.

The aim for the new IRL cohort, beginning in November 2021, is to generate high-quality, community-engaged research useful for dismantling structural racism and improving health and health equity. Applicants should focus on one of the two subthemes:

1. Structural racism in health care
2. Structural racism and community health and well-being

1. **Structural racism in health care.** The IRL program seeks leaders who will conduct research projects focused on solutions to eliminating structural racism and advancing equity in health care and health services delivery. We are especially interested in projects that address public health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Our primary interest with this theme is in fostering community-engaged evidence for equitable approaches to improving the well-being of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color in the health care setting. We seek projects that address priorities for the communities they serve and will generate evidence that is actionable within health care systems, broadly defined. Projects can focus on generating evidence about equitable implementation measures of accountability (e.g., for providers, for systems), safety, and well-being in health care settings. Projects can also focus on resources (both public and private) devoted to supporting health care system efforts to mitigate the impact of structural racism on patients and staff.

The following research projects are examples of topics of potential interest under this theme. These examples are merely illustrative, and we welcome proposals on a range of topics and approaches, provided they are consistent with the discussion above.

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- A qualitative study examining the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches for community oversight and review of active and ongoing mental health initiatives focused on rural migrant workers to improve service delivery.
- A pilot study to develop accountability measures that can assess the impact of community representation in hospital governance changes on structural racism.
- A model study comparing Medicaid expansion, Medicaid buy-in, and a universal coverage system on gaps in health outcome gaps between low-income Americans, disaggregated by race and ethnicity.
- Ethnographic study or historical review of relationships between health care and communities of color. What are the underlying factors that contribute to the structures and barriers that impede quality health care?

2. Structural racism and community health and well-being. The IRL program seeks leaders who will conduct rigorous research focused on solutions to, and remedies for, racially charged policies, practices, and programs that negatively impact community health and well-being. The IRL program is specifically interested in project proposals that seek to better understand the processes and mechanisms through which policies, practices, and programs uphold structural racism in institutional systems beyond health care. Such systems include access to housing; education; employment; criminal justice; political participation; and economic systems broadly. More research is needed on solutions to reduce and eliminate less explicit barriers, including but not limited to, systemic disenfranchisement of political and social involvement for Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, as well as demolishing the historic and devastating impact of redlining on Black communities.

The following research projects are examples of potential research topics for this subtheme. These examples are merely illustrative, and we welcome proposals on a range of topics and approaches, provided they are consistent with the discussion above.

- A natural experiment assessing self-reported mental health among formerly incarcerated individuals as a function of neighborhood-level voter participation and civic health (measured by the Civic Health Index) after the 2018 Florida Voting Rights Restoration for Felons Initiative.
- A study of the differences of drug sentencing based on existing drug policies in white and Latinx communities in New Mexico.
- A policy analysis assessing the relationship between hiring and promotion practices and employee benefits, programs (e.g., sick leave and worker's compensation) and the incidence of COVID-19 in Midwestern meat processing plants.
- A study evaluating unintended mental health consequences of a jobs program among adolescents across communities of differing racial/ethnic composition.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH LEADERS PROGRAM?

The Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program is a *team-based program*.

What are the requirements for teams?

Teams must be:

- comprised of *three* midcareer individuals:
 - one community partner: individuals with close ties to a community of interest who do not regularly

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engage in research as a main function of their job; these individuals must have the potential to take action on the issue themselves or have relationships with entities that can take action.

- two research partners: people with a terminal degree and demonstrated expertise in their field (e.g., PhD, ScD) or an individual with extensive (e.g., 10+ years) experience leading research or large data-driven evaluations.

What are the requirements for individual team members?

Community partners:

- May work in a variety of organizational settings, as long as their experience and expertise are relevant to the proposed research project;
- Has authentic engagement with the community involved in the research project;
- Have a strong interest in learning about and using credible research for action;
- Should be able to provide some guidance for their organization in research activities;
- Can work in any area including community organizing, education, health care, local government or any range of nonprofit and private sectors, whether health care-related or not.

Research partners:

- Should come from diverse disciplinary backgrounds or scientific perspectives; we are particularly interested in novel interdisciplinary partnerships (e.g., engineering and anthropology);
- Do not need to be located in the same geographical area, but should articulate a plan for maintaining team cohesion as part of the application and selection process;
- May hold academic appointments or positions in applied research firms or community organizations;
- Should not be within three years of their terminal degree graduation date.

We encourage researchers who do not have prior direct experience in health research to apply.

A note about program withdrawals and team member replacement: While grantees are expected to maintain the same IRL team and complete the full three-year program, under some circumstances, a team member may not be able to remain on the team or complete the IRL program. Because the program and related activities build over time, adding a new team member is not possible; however, the national program center and RWJF will work with the grantee on possible solutions.

All team members must:

- Be at least 21 years old as of September 1, 2021.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or individual granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at the time of application. As federal policy or laws change, we may need to consider adjustments in eligibility and grant terms.

The following individuals *are not* eligible to apply or be part of an Interdisciplinary Research Leaders team:

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- Federal, state, tribal and local government employees who are considered government officials¹ under Section 4946 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Individual candidates who are related by blood or marriage to any Officer² or Trustee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, or be a descendant of its founder, Robert Wood Johnson.
- Individuals who are receiving support from other research fellowships/traineeships; this includes NIH K award

HOW DO WE CHOOSE FELLOW TEAMS FOR THIS PROGRAM?

If you're passionate about your leadership journey, and you'd like to be among up to 15 teams of leaders chosen from the many applications we receive each year for the Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program, your team will need to:

- Meet the individual, team, and applicant organization eligibility criteria described above.
- Work with the sponsoring institution to put together and submit application materials according to the guidelines provided in the online application system.
- Thoroughly describe your experience and plan for establishing and/or maintaining an effective, equitable team collaboration, without any team member serving in a subordinate role, and accountability to the community.
- Include team members who have the capacity and desire to become leaders in advancing population health and health equity at local and national levels.
- Submit a preliminary research proposal for a project that fits within one of the two subthemes described above. This research should have a strong potential to inform policy or action at the local and/or national level.

How will we choose fellow teams from the applications we receive for the next cohort of Interdisciplinary Research Leaders? We will also consider your:

- Research leadership potential of all members of the team to contribute to the broader vision of building a Culture of Health.
- Preliminary research proposal to topics stated above and whether it incorporates rigorous research methods that draw from multiple scientific and social scientific disciplines.
- Ability to execute the research project within the time frame and budget of the IRL program.
- Inclusion of researcher partners on the team with demonstrated expertise in their respective disciplines.
- Inclusion of a community partner on the team with demonstrated investment and expertise in the proposed research topic and authentic relationships with their community.

Additionally, we will select the overall cohort to be diverse in terms of geographic location, disciplinary background,

¹ For these purposes, a government official is defined as any person who holds one of the following:

- (a) An elective public office in the executive or legislative branch of the Government of the United States.
- (b) An office in the executive or judicial branch of the Government of the United States, appointment to which was made by the President.
- (c) A position in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government of the United States—(A) which is listed in schedule C of rule VI of the Civil Service Rules; or (B) the compensation for which is equal to or greater than the lowest rate of basic pay for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of title 5, United States Code.
- (d) A position under the House of Representatives or the Senate of the United States held by an individual receiving gross compensation at an annual rate of \$15,000 or more.
- (e) An elective or appointive public office in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the government of a State, tribe, possession of the United States, or political subdivision or other area of any of the foregoing, or of the District of Columbia, held by an individual receiving gross compensation at an annual rate of \$20,000 or more, and a significant part of whose activities include "the independent performance of policymaking functions.
- (f) A position as personal or executive assistant or secretary to any of the foregoing or
- (g) A member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board.

² The Officers are the Chair of the Board of Trustees; President and CEO; Chief of Staff; Executive Vice President; General Counsel; Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Treasurer; Assistant Treasurer; and Chief Investment Officer of the Foundation.

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research and leadership experience, and community partners. Among other characteristics, the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity of the populations proposed to be engaged in the research project will also be considered.

HOW DOES THE APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS WORK?

Each team will submit one application through the RWJF online application system. Here's how:

- Gather the materials you will need to apply; see the description of the funding process, below, for more details on exactly what you'll need.
- If you haven't already done so, register at [MyRWJF](#).
- Then go to www.rwjf.org/cfp/irl6 and click on "Apply Online." From there, you'll be able to follow the instructions and use the templates provided.
- Be sure to allow yourself plenty of time to register for MyRWJF, familiarize yourself with the online submission requirements, gather all your materials, and complete all sections of the application. Because we receive so many applications, staff may not be able to assist all applicants in the final 24 hours before the submission deadline.

Applicant Deadline Policy

All proposals for this solicitation must be submitted via the RWJF online system. Visit www.rwjf.org/cfp/irl6 and use the "Apply Online" link. If you have not already done so, you will be required to register at [MyRWJF](#) before you begin the application process.

All applicants should log in to the system and familiarize themselves with online application requirements well before the final submission deadline. Please note that, in the 24-hour period leading up to the application deadline, staff may not be able to assist all applicants with any system-related issues. Therefore, we encourage you to submit your application well before the deadline so that any unforeseen difficulties or technical problems may be addressed well in advance.

Late submissions will not be accepted for any reason. While late submissions will not be accepted, RWJF may choose, in its sole discretion, to extend the application deadline for all applicants. Such extensions generally will be granted only in the event of: (1) a verified issue with the RWJF application system that prevented completion and submission of applications; or (2) a disaster, emergency, or significant internet outage that affects one or more regions. For purposes of this policy, a region is generally considered to be one or more states. RWJF strives to give all applicants any support needed to successfully submit their proposal prior to the deadline. Submission is defined as all sections completed, marked finished, the application "submit" button used, and the application status shows "Submitted." If the deadline is extended for any reason, the extension will be posted on the funding opportunity page at RWJF.org and an email will be sent to all individuals that have started an application in the RWJF online system.

There are three phases in this funding process:

Phase 1: IRL Program Applications from each team (due May 5, 2021, by 3 p.m. ET)

Each proposed team must submit a complete application; this will include:

- proposed research project description and budget
- team collaboration description
- individual leadership and research influence and aspirations
- biographical sketches of team members

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A committee made up of representatives from the national program center, the program's national advisory committee (NAC), and RWJF staff members, will review applications based on the eligibility and selection criteria described in this call for applications. Semifinalist teams will be invited for online (e.g., Zoom) interviews, and all team members must participate in the interviews to be eligible for selection. After the semifinalist team interviews are completed, the NAC and the national program center will make recommendations to RWJF, and RWJF will make the final decisions on finalists.

Phase 2: Finalist Supplemental Applications

Each finalist team member will be required to submit additional information through the RWJF application system. Information collected at this stage will include the team member's sponsoring institution—including documentation that the organization is willing to fulfill the requirements as a sponsoring institution, and a form completed by the individual's employer(s) acknowledging the employee's potential participation in the program.

Phase 3: Research Award Application

Approximately four months after the fellowship begins, the team will submit an application for the research project grant. At that time, the team will select the organization that will receive and manage the research project grant.

Please direct inquiries to:

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

AWARD DETAILS

- Number of fellows in the 2021 cohort: up to 45 fellows (15 teams)
- Grant funds from RWJF will include:
 - Stipend: \$25,000 per fellow for each year of the three-year program, \$75,000 in total. These funds are meant to support time for participation in the IRL program, including completing the program curriculum, national meetings, and dissemination activities, and will be paid to the sponsoring institution(s) as described below. An optional administrative fee of \$1,000 per year, \$3,000 in total, to cover the sponsoring organization's administrative costs of managing the grant will be available. No other indirect costs will be allowed.
 - Research project grant: \$125,000 for the specific research project that each team will carry out. The team will apply for the research project grant after the fellowship begins and, at that time, will select the organization that will receive and manage the research project grant. We anticipate that the total 24- to 30-month budget, including indirect costs/overhead for the project will be up to \$125,000. The research component of IRL will support research activities only; it is not intended to support program development or implementation. Research grant funds can be used to: cover additional effort as needed; purchase data or supplies; cover support staff; collect data; or pay for travel necessary for the project's execution.
- Travel expenses for all required program meetings and trainings will be paid directly by the national leadership program center or RWJF.

Additional resources—in the form of training, collaborative opportunities, and travel expenses—are also provided independent of this award.

After the fellowship begins, funds of up to \$15,000 per year will be available from the national program center to the community partner's employer, sponsoring institution, or another community organization directly involved in the research project. This will generally be limited to Section 501(c)(3) public charities and government entities.

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Recognizing that \$25,000 may not be sufficient to fully fund a one-day-per-week time commitment to IRL for some fellows, we ask at the finalist stage for the team members' employers to acknowledge their willingness to allow the fellow to commit the required time to the program.

The grant opportunity outlined in this call for applications is contingent upon final funding confirmation from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for such grants.

WHAT IS A SPONSORING INSTITUTION?

A sponsoring institution is an organization the participant selects to receive the grant funds. A sponsoring institution must possess the administrative and financial capacity and experience to accept the award and be:

- Based in the United States or its territories;
- Willing to receive the funds from RWJF; and
- Able to distribute funds in a manner that is consistent with RWJF policies (described in "How Can You Use Interdisciplinary Research Leaders Grant Funds?").

The sponsoring institution will be responsible for signing the grant agreement with RWJF and submitting brief annual financial reports to the Foundation.

Sponsoring institutions will typically be the participant's employer; however, other sponsoring institutions are permitted, including organizations with which the applicant has a collaborative or partnering relationship. These organizations could include local nonprofits, faith-based organizations (including worship communities), and businesses. A sole proprietorship is not eligible to be a sponsoring institution.

HOW CAN YOU USE INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH LEADERS GRANT FUNDS?

You will work with your sponsoring institution to determine how the stipends will be used to support your successful completion of the program. For example, stipends might be used to defray the cost of time you spend working on the program, for living expenses, consultant fees, relevant conference/workshop registration fees, travel, supplies, and executive education.

Research grant funds may be used for project IRL fellow salaries, staff salaries, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, meetings, supplies, project-related travel, and other direct project expenses, including a limited amount of equipment deemed essential to the project.

In keeping with RWJF policy, stipend or research project funds may *not* be used to support clinical trials of unapproved drugs or devices, to construct or renovate facilities, for lobbying, or for political activities.

OPEN ACCESS

In order to ensure RWJF-supported research is made accessible to a wide and diverse audience, peer-reviewed publications must be accessible to everyone; they must be open access. In some instances, journals charge fees to make a given article open access. Such funds—typically \$2,000–\$5,000 per manuscript—will be made available to the team members independent of this award.

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OUR EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITMENT

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is committed to building a Culture of Health that provides everyone in America a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. Achieving this goal requires focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion. To that end, we are committed to fostering diverse perspectives. We recognize that individuals' perspectives are shaped by a host of factors, such as their race, ethnicity, gender, physical and mental ability, age, socioeconomic status, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, familial status, education, religion, legal status, military service, political affiliation, geography, and other personal and professional experiences.

We know that the presence of diverse perspectives alone is not sufficient. Therefore, we also are committed to creating inclusive environments where all individuals are encouraged to share their perspectives and experiences.

We believe that only through valuing our differences and similarities, and remaining vigilant in advancing equity, will we be able to maintain an equitable workplace and actively pursue equity in all aspects of our work. We commit to being continuous learners and working alongside others to cultivate equity, diversity, and inclusion.

EVALUATION

The purpose of evaluation at RWJF is learning and improvement. An independent research group selected by the national program center and RWJF—with funding from RWJF—is conducting an evaluation of the program. RWJF intends for this program to contribute to national efforts to develop leaders who will build a Culture of Health.

Therefore, the program will publicly release results from this evaluation. The evaluation team will study the progress of the national program center in achieving its goals, as well as the impact of components that are unique to the national program center. As a condition of accepting RWJF funds, program participants must participate in the evaluation. Participation in this program includes assisting with necessary data collection to accomplish the evaluation objectives. These data collection efforts may include national program center and participant surveys, data sharing, and other activities.

APPLICANT SURVEY PROCESS

Program applicants may be contacted after the deadline by SSRS, an independent research firm. If you are contacted, you will be asked to complete a brief, online survey about the application process and applicant characteristics. This voluntary questionnaire will take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Responses provided to SSRS will not impact the funding decision for your application in any way.

SSRS will protect the confidentiality of your responses. RWJF will not receive any data that links your name with your survey responses.

PROGRAM DIRECTION

The University of Minnesota, along with its partners, serves as the national program center, which leads the program activities and participant experiences and provides direction and technical assistance for this program and the application process.

Interdisciplinary Research Leaders

University of Minnesota School of Public Health
1300 South 2nd Street, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55454
Phone: (844) 210-9072

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Email: ResearchLeaders@umn.edu

Website: <http://interdisciplinaryresearch-leaders.org/>

Responsible staff members at the national leadership program center are:

- Toben Nelson, ScD, *associate professor*, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, *program co-director*
- Vanya C. Jones, PhD, *associate professor*, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, *program co-director*
- Mandy LaBreche, MPH, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, *associate director of operations*

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- Sheldon Watts, PhD, *senior program officer*
- Christine Lee, *program financial analyst*

KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

- **March 18, 2021 (3 p.m. ET or 2 p.m. CT)**
Informational webinar for prospective Interdisciplinary Research Leaders applicants. This informational webinar will provide more details and answer questions about the program. The webinar is optional, but please [register in advance](#). The webinar will be recorded and available on the Interdisciplinary Research Leaders website, so you can view it on your own schedule.
- **May 5, 2021 (3 p.m. ET)**
Deadline for receipt of fellowship application.
- **June 29–July 20, 2021**
Semifinalist team interviews (virtual).
- **Late August 2021**
Finalist teams notified of recommendation for fellowship program.
- **September 15, 2021**
Deadline for receipt of finalist supplemental applications.
- **November 1, 2021**
Fellowships begin. Grant funding initiated.
- **Winter 2021–2022 (date TBD)**
Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program meeting (on-site attendance required unless there are public health concerns).
- **April 7, 2022**
Last date for revised research proposals from teams are due.
- **2022 (date TBD by RWJF)**
RWJF Annual Leadership Institute (in-person attendance required unless there are public health concerns), date and location TBD.
- **April–May 2022**
Research grant funding initiated for teams.

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ABOUT THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

For more than 45 years, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care. We are working alongside others to build a national Culture of Health that provides everyone in America a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. For more information, visit [rwjf.org](https://www.rwjf.org). Follow the Foundation on Twitter at www.rwjf.org/twitter or on Facebook at www.rwjf.org/facebook.

Sign up to receive email alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at www.rwjf.org/manage-your-subscriptions.html.

50 College Road East
Princeton, NJ 08540-6614

ⁱ Any required in-person interviews or meetings are pending a safe resolution of the pandemic. Until then, we may modify the requirement and offer virtual meetings. We will notify participants after this determination has been made.