

August 15, 2023

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

**UNDERSTANDING RISK FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO
CLIMATE-INDUCED MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS**



**NATIONAL
ACADEMIES**

*Sciences
Engineering
Medicine*

GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

Table of Contents

Summary of Funding Opportunity.....	1
Key Dates	1
Award Details	1
Purpose and Desired Outcomes.....	1
Project Structure	2
What We Do Not Fund	3
Who Should Apply	3
Application Submission	4
Full Proposal Guidelines	4
Merit Review Criteria	5
Research Involving Human Subjects	6
Data Management	7
Grant Agreement Terms and Conditions	7
Making the Award	7
Selection Notice.....	7
Award Notice.....	8
Grant Periods.....	8
Post-Award Management.....	8
Coordination with GRP	8
Reporting Requirements.....	8
Scientific Integrity	9
About the Gulf Research Program	9

SUMMARY OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Gulf Research Program (GRP) aims to enhance the understanding of mental health consequences of climate change within coastal communities in the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of Alaska Regions. This funding opportunity will support research that identifies risk factors for climate-induced mental health effects.

Specifically, the GRP is seeking proposals that study the risk factors associated with poor mental health outcomes in combination with exposure to climate change or chronic climate stressors (e.g. extreme temperatures, flooding; degraded water, air, and environmental quality) and whether specific populations are more susceptible to mental health effects than others. The GRP will accept proposals from U.S. institutions and organizations, excluding federal agencies.

A total of \$5M is available for this funding opportunity, with approximately five proposals being funded. Applicants must request funding that is commensurate with the scope of work, that is up to 36 months in duration.

Key Dates

- **August 15, 2023:** Online proposal submission open
- **November 1, 2023:** Full proposals due by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- **March 2024:** Award selection and notification
- **May 1, 2024:** Anticipated funding start date

Award Details

- **Total Amount Available:** Up to \$5,000,000
- **Award per Grantee:** Up to \$1,000,000 (including indirect costs)
- **Period of Performance:** Up to 36 months
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** Up to 5

PURPOSE AND DESIRED OUTCOMES

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to identify the different risk factors (e.g., age, race/ethnicity, previous mental health diagnosis, geographic location, socioeconomic status, access to mental health services) and better understand their relationships to climate-induced mental health impacts in the GRP geographic region populations and communities. Specifically, the GRP is interested in:

- Understanding the risk factors associated with poor mental health outcomes and climate change or chronic climate stressors within the GRP's geographic region.
- Identifying climate-induced mental health disparities that may exist in the GRP's geographic region communities.

- Determining, what, if any, potential protective factors could help mitigate poor mental health outcomes.

There is a need for more robust epidemiological study designs to identify potential risk factors for developing poor mental health outcomes as a consequence of exposure to climate change and chronic climate stressors within the GRP's geographic focus region. Climate change is tied to major and far-reaching physical health implications, but there is less focus on its mental health impacts, particularly among members of U.S. Gulf Coast communities. Psychological distress, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, substance abuse disorder, and suicidal ideation are mental health impacts identified by previous studies in general and within a disaster context. Additional mental health impacts are beginning to emerge as a result of the intensifying or increasing effects of climate change, including climate anxiety, eco-guilt, eco-anxiety, pre-traumatic stress disorder, and solastalgia. While evidence indicates a higher prevalence of mental health impacts in individuals experiencing a natural hazard or with previously diagnosed mental health conditions, these conclusions have been mostly formed from cross-sectional studies and from populations outside the GRP Focus Region. The GRP's geographic focus region includes the Gulf of Mexico and the adjacent coastal regions of the five Gulf States (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas). The GRP also works in other areas of the outer continental shelf of the United States where there is offshore drilling, hydrocarbon production, and transportation, and in adjacent coastal regions. This includes the coastal region of the Gulf of Alaska.

PROJECT STRUCTURE

All proposed activities should focus on identifying risk factors for climate-induced mental health impacts within their target population(s). Proposals that take an asset-based approach, such as community-based participatory research or co-development, are encouraged. Proposals may use primary or secondary data sources to design their study. In addition:

- The target population for research projects should include at least one coastal community in one of the five Gulf of Mexico states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, and/or Gulf of Alaska (GRP's geographic region); however, populations outside the GRP geographic region may be included in the research project as a control or comparison group.
- One of the target populations should be experiencing or have experienced direct or indirect impacts of adverse climate change conditions (e.g. extreme temperatures, flooding, degraded air, water, and environmental quality).
- Proposals may focus on one or multiple adverse climate change conditions.
- Independent and dependent variables of interest should be clearly defined, and collection methods well described with justification from the literature, when appropriate.
- Research studies may use quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods approaches.
- Studies should be appropriately powered to draw conclusions from sample data.

What We Do Not Fund

- Proposals for political lobbying or advocacy activities.
- Activities currently under consideration for funding from other sources are not eligible.
- Randomized control trials, clinical trials, or pharmacological interventions.
- Infrastructure projects (e.g., construction of health clinics or facilities).

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Proposals will be accepted for this opportunity from all types of U.S. institutions and organizations, excluding federal agencies.

This funding opportunity will support the applying organization (the “applicant”), the individual who will lead the proposal (the “Project Director”), as well as any key personnel (the “Project Team.”) The GRP expects that the applicant, Project Director, and Project Team adhere to the following requirements:

- Applicants must work in a community located within the Gulf of Mexico and the adjacent coastal regions of the five Gulf States (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas) or the Gulf of Alaska coastal region that is associated with offshore hydrocarbon production.
- The applicant must have a valid federal tax ID number.
- Nonprofit applicants must have current 501(c)(3) status in good standing.
- Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) and University Affiliated Research Centers (UCARCS) can be named as subawardees; however, they must have the authority to obtain funding for work outside of their federal sponsor contract and not propose to do work they are otherwise doing under their federal sponsor contract.
- U.S. federal agencies are not eligible to receive GRP funding as applicants or sub-awardees. However, federal employees may be included as non-funded collaborators and Project Team members.
- BP Exploration and Production, Inc. (BP), Transocean Deepwater, Inc. (Transocean), their affiliates, and employees are not eligible to receive grant funding or to participate as team members in any grant.
- An individual may be proposed as Project Director in only one application under this funding opportunity.
- An individual, including a project director, may be named as a project team member in any number of other applications.
- If an individual appears on multiple proposals, a clear description should be included to explain how the proposed work is complementary and not duplicative of other proposed efforts and how the participant will budget their time.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

The GRP will only accept proposals submitted via the [online submission website](#). Full proposal application materials submitted by other means (e.g., mail, fax, or email) and in any language other than English will not be considered. All complete proposals will be reviewed by an external review panel and evaluated using the [Merit Review Criteria](#). The GRP may reject, without review, proposals that are not responsive to the Request for Proposal instructions.

Project directors should review the application preparation and submission instructions and submit any questions to gulfgrants@nas.edu before the submission deadline. The GRP cannot guarantee that applicants' questions will be answered before the submission deadline.

Please review the Grant Agreement (see the [Grant Resources](#) page) prior to submitting an application to understand the terms under which the grant is offered. If selected, successful applicants are strongly encouraged to sign the Grant Agreement as presented. Per the policy of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, modifications to the Grant Agreement are only made under the most exceptional circumstances.

- View a sample grant agreement if the applicant is a [public institution](#).
- View a sample grant agreement if the applicant is a [private institution](#).

FULL PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Visit the [online submission website](#) for the full proposal components and to submit your proposal.

The proposal must include the following elements:

- **General Applicant Data:** Details about the project director's and each project team member's contact information and roles.
- **Project Summary:** An overview of the proposed project written for a scientifically or technically literate lay person. (Maximum 250 words.)
- **Project Details:** Details about the project's duration and location, and a description of the target population.
- **Project Design** (Maximum 7,000 words)
 - **Background and Justification:** A summary of the challenge that the project will address and may include a brief summary of relevant work done in the past as well as any evidence gaps the project hopes to address.
 - **Project Goal and Objectives:** A clear statement of the project objectives and/or research questions the project will address.
 - **Project/Research Plan:** A description of the study design, procedures, data collection methods, and statistical analyses to be used to accomplish the specific project objectives as well as descriptions of any collaborations/partnerships, and potential limitations and alternatives.

- **Timeline:** Details for the anticipated project initiation, milestones, and completion dates. May be a Gantt chart or description of 500 words maximum.
- **Citations**
- **Figures, Diagrams, and Tables** (optional)
- **Project Team/Personnel:** A description of the project director's and each project team member's research and/or practical experience related to the selected community, project location, and/or topic. (Maximum 500 words.)
- **Project Partners:** A description of stakeholders who will be approached to join the project as partners and/or collaborators. (Maximum 500 words.)
- **Anticipated Impact:** A statement describing how the project aims to improve health and/or community resilience in the target/study population, build capacity in the community and/or within the project team, and how impact will be assessed and measured. (Maximum 1,250 words.)
- **Data Management Plan:** A description of how data will be collected, managed, stored, and protected throughout the project. (Maximum 1,500 words.)
- **Communications and Dissemination:** A description about how the project results and findings will be communicated and disseminated to key stakeholders and the broader community.
- **Research on Human Subjects:** For projects involving human subjects research, a statement about Institutional Review Board approval/exemption, and a description of the risks to subjects and how those risks will be mitigated.
- **Project Budget:** The total amount requested, including direct and indirect costs, not to exceed the maximum specified in this RFP. Must also include a budget justification. Download the budget form and justification template below:
 - [Budget Form](#)
 - [Budget Justification](#) (Sample)
- **Other Required Attachments:** (e.g., resumes for the project director and project team member, Collaborators and Other Affiliations Form, Current and Pending Support form.) Download the specifications and templates below:
 - [Resume Specifications](#)
 - [Collaborators and Other Affiliations Form](#)
 - [Current and Pending Support Form](#)
- **Optional Attachments** (e.g., letters of support, strategic plan. Maximum 3 documents.)

For additional information and instructions about the application elements, please review the application form via the online application system.

MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

All complete proposals will be evaluated based on the following review criteria categories. Applicants should consider the [Full Proposal Guidelines](#) and Merit Review Criteria in the development of their full proposal. Reviewers may raise additional issues not covered by the criteria. The final decision for funding will be made by the National Academies. All review processes will be governed by the [GRP's Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policies](#).

Research Fit and Generalizability (25%)

- To what extent is there potential to identify risk factors for climate-induced mental health effects in the proposed project?
- To what extent could the proposed project be generalized or transferred for broader public health impact?

Scientific Merit (35%)

- To what extent is the research design clear, well-reasoned, and appropriate to accomplish the objectives and specific aims of the proposal?
- To what extent are the study variables clearly defined and use the appropriate collection methodologies?
- To what extent is the study appropriately powered?
- To what extent does the proposal clearly recognize the limitations and difficulties inherent to the project?

Feasibility (15%)

- To what extent is the proposal feasible within the criteria of this funding opportunity?

Alignment with GRP Mission (10%)

- To what extent does the proposed program align with the mission of the Gulf Research Program, namely, to enhance human health and community resilience in the Gulf region (and Gulf of Alaska's coastal region) in ways that empower its citizens?

Project Team (10%)

- To what extent are project team members well-qualified in their experience, knowledge, and skills to ensure the completion of a successful proposed project?

Budget (5%)

- To what extent is the budget commensurate with the proposed activities?

Human Subjects Protections (unweighted)

- To what extent does the proposal clearly identify potential risks to human subjects and ways these risks will be mitigated?

Research Involving Human Subjects

All projects involving human subjects must be submitted to an institutional review board (IRB) for review and either receive IRB approval or be granted exemption from human subjects regulations before an award can be made. Proposers should file their proposal with their local IRB at the same time the proposal is submitted to the Gulf Research Program so that any approval procedure determined as necessary will not delay the award process. A proposal may be submitted to the Gulf Research Program prior to receiving IRB approval or being granted exemption; however, if the proposal is selected for funding, the award will be made conditional upon IRB granting approval or exemption from human subjects regulations within 60 days of the notice of conditional award. If a proposed project involving human subjects is granted exemption from human subjects

regulations [see 45 CFR §46.101(b)], the applicant must provide documentation that an IRB (or the appropriate authority other than the Project Director or Key Personnel) has declared the project exempt from the human subjects regulations. Documentation should include the specific category justifying the exemption. Organizations without internal access to an IRB must seek approval or exemption from an independent review board or other appropriate authority. Visit our website for more [information about human subjects regulations](#).

Data Management

The GRP's [Data Management Policy](#) applies to this RFP. To facilitate sharing of data and information products, all proposals submitted to the GRP must include a data management plan and follow FAIR guiding principles (FAIR stands for "Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable." To learn more about FAIR guiding principles refer to the National Academies report "Open Science by Design: Realizing a Vision for 21st Century Research").

The GRP follows the federal government's definition of data in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 200.315: "...the recorded factual material commonly accepted in the scientific community as necessary to validate research findings." Information products may include documents (i.e., reports, workshop summaries, etc.), multi-media curricula for education and training (i.e., video and/or online tutorials, manuals, and handbooks, etc.), and other media and communication platforms. Even in the unlikely case in which no data or any other information products will be produced, a plan must be submitted that states "No data or information products are expected to be produced from this project."

The GRP's [Data Management Policy](#) and [Data Management web page](#) provides information on what must be included in the data management plan submitted as part of a proposal.

Grant Agreement Terms and Conditions

Please review the Grant Agreement prior to submitting a proposal. It is the policy of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to entertain potential modifications to the Grant Agreement only under the most exceptional circumstances. Rather, successful applicants are strongly encouraged to sign the Grant Agreement as presented.

- View a [sample grant agreement](#) if the applicant is a public institution.
- View a [sample grant agreement](#) if the applicant is a private institution.

MAKING THE AWARD

Selection Notice

The GRP reserves the right to select all, some, one, or none of the proposals received in response to this solicitation.

When the evaluation of a proposal is complete, the Project Director will be notified that (1) the proposal has been selected for funding pending contract negotiations, or (2) the proposal has not been selected. These

official notifications will be sent via email to the Project Director identified on the application. If a proposal is selected for award, the GRP reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information for any reason deemed necessary, including, but not limited to, indirect cost information or other budget information.

Award Notice

The GRP transmits award notices to organizations via e-mail. The award is not finalized, and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine is not obligated to provide any funding until a signed copy of the award agreement has been received by the Academies.

Grant Periods

Upon receipt of the award notice, the awardee should note the effective date and the expiration date. The effective date is the date specified in the grant notice on or after which expenditures may be charged to the grant. Charging expenditures to the grant prior to the effective date is prohibited. The expiration date is the date specified in the grant notice after which expenditures may not be charged against the grant except to satisfy obligations to pay allowable project costs committed on or before that date. Once an award is made, the effective date cannot be changed. The expiration date may be changed as a result of approval of a request for a no-cost extension. If approved, the GRP will issue an amendment to the grant.

If additional time beyond the performance period and the established expiration date is required to assure adequate completion of the original scope of work with the funds already made available, the awardee may apply for a one-time, no-cost extension of up to six months. A formal request must be submitted to the GRP at least 45 days prior to the expiration date of the grant. The request must explain the need for the extension and include an estimate of the unobligated funds remaining and a plan for their use. This one-time extension will not be approved solely for the purpose of using the unliquidated balances.

POST-AWARD MANAGEMENT

Coordination with GRP

After the award is conferred, grantees shall coordinate with the GRP to formally initiate the project. GRP staff will periodically request status meetings during the project implementation phase to discuss progress and any unanticipated developments that may affect the project outcomes as specified in the grant agreement. These interactions will help ensure successful management of the grant.

Reporting Requirements

After an award is conferred, the grantee shall provide an annual financial report to the GRP to report on grant expenditures to date under the grant. The grantee shall provide an annual written report to the GRP to report on activities being carried out under the grant, including but not limited to project accomplishments to date and grant expenditures. No later than sixty (60) days after the expiration of the award, the grantee shall provide in writing a final grant report. The final grant report shall address the original objectives of the project as identified in the grant proposal, describe any changes in objectives, describe the final project accomplishments, and include a final project accounting of all grant funds.

Scientific Integrity

A fundamental purpose of the GRP is to facilitate the advancement of knowledge and the application of the science to address challenges relevant to the Program’s mission. All activities of the GRP will be conducted to meet the highest standards of scientific integrity. All grantees have a responsibility to use the funds as specified in the proposal to advance the project goals and objectives. To continue the emphasis on scientific integrity throughout the award period, the GRP will ask all researchers, trainees, and fellows to comply with professional standards as defined by the National Academies report “[On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research](#).”

ABOUT THE GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

The GRP is a division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine—a private, nonprofit organization with a 150-year history as an independent advisor to the Nation on issues of science, engineering, and medicine. The GRP was founded in 2013 as part of legal settlements with the companies involved in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster, and received an endowment to carry out studies, projects, and other activities in the areas of research and development, education and training, and monitoring and synthesis.

The GRP seeks to enhance offshore energy safety, environmental protection and stewardship, and human health and community resilience in the Gulf of Mexico and beyond. It focuses its work on the Gulf of Mexico and other outer continental shelves of the United States where there is hydrocarbon production, and on their coastal zones; specifically, this includes the areas of the Southcentral region of Alaska that are or could be impacted by activities (e.g., drilling, production, and transportation) associated with hydrocarbon production in the offshore. Where appropriate, the GRP’s work may extend farther inland or into adjacent seas.

The GRP uses four strategic approaches to catalyze, implement, and track positive impact in the Gulf of Mexico and beyond:

- Advance science and understanding
- Bridge knowledge to action
- Build partnerships and engage networks
- Monitor for progress and change