

Position ID

E17-36

Position Title

Climate and Health Project Specialist

Office Name

Climate Program Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Portfolio Summary

Heat exhaustion, Zika infection, asthma, Salmonella contamination, and psychological distress are all climate-linked health phenomena, and all are likely to be exacerbated by an increase in global temperatures and climate variability. NOAA's environmental intelligence plays a critical role in understanding, predicting, and adapting to (or preventing) these issues, and this exciting position within the Climate Program Office (CPO) of NOAA's research arm (OAR) will directly engage the fellow in the national and global science, policy, and partnership-building activities run out of our office.

Internally, this fellow will work across NOAA's line offices in pursuit of a NOAA OneHealth agenda that promotes the climate and health activities of the labs, programs, and offices within NOAA, leveraging the collective capacity of the agency and facilitating engagement outside of our agency. At the inter-agency level, the fellow will be an active participant in US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) activities, coordinating climate and health research priorities across the federal government, informing priorities of the incoming administration in its earliest moments, and delivering subject matter expertise in reports and presentations. At the national and international levels, the fellow will be folded into existing and new activities piloting regional implementations of the National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS), and the newly formed Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN). Some domestic and international travel for these activities is likely - both for NIHHIS and GHHIN engagements, and for conferences.

The following are possible elements of a portfolio for the fellow:

NIHHIS Web Portal

Lead the ongoing development of the NIHHIS Web Portal, which is an extension of the Climate Resilience Toolkit - an interagency White House initiative run out of the Climate Program Office. This portal is the "one stop shop" for inter-agency information on extreme heat, intended to help decision-makers plan for extreme heat.

NIHHIS Pilots

Lead a NIHHIS pilot in one of our emerging US regions. Following the successful launch of the Southwest (North American Desert) pilot in El Paso in 2016, pilots in the Northeast and Midwest / Great Lakes regions of the country are planned for 2017, followed by pilots in the West, Northwest, and Southeast. The fellow may help plan or lead one or more of these pilots, including planning a workshop, researching and writing reports and papers, building relationships and training.

NIHHIS Interagency

NIHHIS integrates the vast knowledge, capacity, and activities of all agencies in the US Government that address extreme heat risk and resilience. The fellow may support the inter-agency aspect of NIHHIS by facilitating monthly meetings, planning outreach and engagement activities, and by mapping out and consolidating the inter-agency resources so that they can be easily understood and used by decision makers.

GHHIN Coordination

The Global Heat Health Information Network will be formally launched in early 2017, and a meeting will be held in Southeast Asia to formalize this network and move forward on planning. The fellow can be an essential part of planning, executing, and delivering on the outcomes of this meeting.

NOAA OneHealth

NOAA has had a OneHealth group for many years, but it has recently been rekindled with fresh interest and enthusiasm requiring strategic planning and support. The fellow may help develop a strategic plan for this initiative, a new web presence, and may facilitate ongoing meetings of this group to communicate the importance of, and facilitate advancement of, NOAA's health activities.

Emerging Climate and Health Issues

Our portfolio of climate and health projects is currently very focused on extreme heat, but there are many other health issues that require climate information for improved understanding, prediction and detection, and long-term resilience. The fellow may be engaged in doing research, planning, and communication of new directions for the climate and health work performed within CPO, NOAA, and the US Government.

Expertise Desired

This position is designed to be flexible enough to accommodate a variety of activities, depending upon the interest and background of the fellow, and emergent priorities. International and domestic engagement, on a variety of climate and health issues, whether in a research/technical, coordination, or communication capacity would be beneficial to this rapidly growing and evolving team in CPO. Building our capacity to learn from and evolve our resilience to climate-linked health concerns is a growing priority for NOAA, the US government, and the global climate science community. We are seeking a fellow who has a solid understanding of climate and/or health (or is eager to learn), who is an agile and creative problem solver (climate and health concerns are often aptly described as "wicked problems") and who is passionate about building resilience and protecting the most vulnerable among us.

Travel within DC (days per month)

2-5

Travel outside DC (days per month)

2-5

Accepts Foreign Nationals

Yes