# Pilot Grants Available for Climate and Health Research

Letter of Intent Due: February 24th, 2025 (Extended)

Full Application Due:  April 14th, 2025

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The Climate and Health Actionable Research and Translation (CHART) Center (NIH 1P20ES036110-02) is pleased to announce the 2025-2026 *Pilot Project Program in Climate and Health*. CHART will make available a total of $60,000 to projects that aim to advance climate and health research, with the intention of funding multiple grants of up to $20,000 each in direct costs.

The Pilot Project Program aims to build the capacity of investigators by providing funding for innovative pilot proposals that plan to generate new knowledge about the health risks associated with climate change in urban areas, particularly those related to heat exposure, and to translate this knowledge into action through equitable partnerships that enhance health. The program is designed to support the generation of new data, the testing of novel methods, and the establishment of new partnerships needed to develop larger external grant proposals. Ultimately, the central goal of CHART is to build the capacity of investigators to successfully compete for National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)-funded R-level research awards.

Prioritization will be given to early-stage investigators, minority-serving institutions, and historically underrepresented institutions seeking to extend their research program into the field of climate and health.

*Application Guidelines*

**Eligibility to Apply:**
- CHART pilot awards are open to all investigators working in climate and health inside the US.
- Applications  must be  focused on the role of the environment in human health and disease, and align with the mission of NIEHS and the aims of CHART.
- Pilot project funds cannot be used to supplement research that has already been funded, regardless of the source.

It is intended that at least one of the grants will be awarded to a community-engaged research project.

**Recommended Guidelines for CHART <u>Community-Engaged Research Projects</u>:**
- Applications for community-engaged research projects designed to address environmental health concerns are encouraged.
- Community members/partners are expected to participate meaningfully in the development of the research questions and research design, as well as study implementation (e.g., data collection and development of deliverables). It is expected that pilot project resources will be shared with community members/partners (e.g., compensating partners' time).
- Community-engaged projects should carefully consider the scope of the project, including time and budget for the project and partnership coordination.
- Community partners and researchers are encouraged to sign a memorandum of understanding. A template will be provided by the Community Engagement Core.

In this grant cycle, proposed projects must be conducted solely by US-based investigators for work exclusively in the United States.

*Application Process*

**A. <u>Letter of Intent</u>**

**Due February 24, 2025 (Extended)**

**Submit to [chart.center@emory.edu](mailto:chart.center@emory.edu)**
- The letter should include a descriptive title of the proposed research, the overall aim/hypothesis, and names and institutions of key personnel.
- Indicate the primary contact person and their contact information.
- Letters should not exceed 1 page.

Applicants will be notified if they are selected to submit a full application within approximately 7-10 days after the deadline.

**B. <u>Full Application</u>**

**Due April 14, 2025**

1. <u>Cover page</u> (1-page maximum length, 11-point Arial font, 1-inch margins):
   - Project Title (200-character limit)
   - Participants: List all project participants (e.g., investigators, other researchers) and their role(s) on the project.
   - Abstract: Include a paragraph summarizing the proposed research and its environmental health relevance.
   - Relevance to Communities: Describe immediate or future relevance to local communities, if applicable.
   - Climate and Health Advancement: Include an explanation of how the research

will advance climate and health research, and/or general environmental health research, as applicable.

2.  Science (4-page maximum length, 11-point Arial font, 1-inch margins):
    o   Should be written in the style of an NIH R-level grant, with the following sections: Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, and Approach.

3.  References (not included in page count)

4.  Future plans for NIEHS-relevant grant submission (300-word limit): Describe how findings from the proposed research will help ground a future NIEHS grant application. Include an outline of the remaining experiments or data collection, if any, that will need to take place before an R-level application can be submitted, and a timeline for when the submission will occur. The content of this section will carry considerable weight on review.

5.  NIH Biosketch of PI and all co-investigators

6.  NIH budget(s) & justification(s):
    o   Funding up to **$20,000 in direct costs** may be requested by applicants both internal and external to Emory University.
        i.  *Applicants external to Emory University should also include indirect costs (F&A)*, if any, required by their institutions, but total costs (direct plus indirect) may not exceed $30,000.
        ii. *Internal Emory* budgets are not subject to the Emory University Collaboration policy, and F&A is not shared with the applicant institution.
    o   Faculty salary support up to a maximum of 5% effort may be requested (combined effort of all participating faculty; NIH salary cap limit applies). "In-kind" effort may also be listed.
    o   Use NIH PHS 398 forms (form pages 4 and 5) for direct costs. Separate forms must be filled out for each institution involved. Indirect costs, if applicable, should be detailed independently.
    o   All applicable governmental and university (Emory and other participating institution) rules and regulations regarding the administration of grants apply to these funds. Costs subject to Emory University approval under NIH regulations, such as computers, general purpose equipment, office supplies, etc., may not be budgeted. Any travel must follow Emory University and other applicable institutional travel policies and procedures.

**Application Submission Procedures:**
Email a compiled electronic version (PDF) of the application to: chart.center@emory.edu
-   Applications will be scored based on the following criteria:
    o   Overall Impact (potential to support a NIEHS R-level grant application)

- o Significance
- o Innovation
- o Approach
- o Investigator (for junior investigators, likelihood of independence)
- o Alignment with CHART Goals
- o Collaboration (with other investigators)
- Decisions will be made late April - early May 2025 and communicated via email to the primary contact. Earliest funding is June 1, 2025, subject to contracts, which is a multi-stage process.  Funding will not extend beyond December 31, 2026.

*Awardee Requirements*

- Pilot awards are expected to lead to R-level NIH funding, preferably with NIEHS. Awardees are required to keep the CHART Center informed of any funding related to the pilot project.
- Awardees must supply the following IRB information, if relevant, to the CHART Center Administrator for approval by NIEHS prior to release of funds:  study team CITI certifications, IRB/ethics approval/exemption letter, Human Subjects Statement, and PHS Inclusion Form and any other NIH requirements, including access to data.
- With guidance from CHART personnel, each awardee is required to draft a plain language summary of the proposed research and its environmental health relevance for the CHART website. These summaries should also describe how the project fits within the NIEHS Translational Research Framework, including a description of the experimental setting of the research (e.g., in vivo, in vitro, populations, policy) and how the proposed research will help bridge the work towards impact on individuals, communities, and populations.
- Awardees must draft a Data Sharing Plan, where applicable.
- Awardees automatically become members of the CHART Center and must agree to participate in CHART activities (Retreats, Seminars, Workshops, Stakeholder and External Advisory Board Meetings). As CHART Members, awardees are also invited to take advantage of CHART resources, including assistance in grant preparation and career development activities.
- Project reports will be required at the midpoint and end of the grant funding period. Additional follow-up reports and a presentation of pilot results will also be required.
- Any resultant publications must be shared with the CHART Research Capacity Building Core for review before submission to a journal. All publications will need to cite funding from CHART and be deposited in PubMed Central per NIH guidelines.

*For all CHART Pilot Project Program questions, contact chart.center@emory.edu*