

Request for Proposals

Duke Center for Global Mental Health & DGHI Global Health & Climate Initiative

Pilot Research Topics on: The Intersection of Climate Change and Global Mental Health

APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 15, 2025

In support of our commitment to reducing global mental health inequities and addressing the health effects of climate change, the [Duke Center for Global Mental Health](#) (Duke CGMH) and the DGHI Global Health & Climate Initiative invite interdisciplinary teams, led by a Duke investigator, to submit research proposals that explore the intersection of climate change and global mental health. Each pilot grant will provide up to **\$30,000** to support research that aligns with our mutual missions to reduce global health inequities through responsive, sustainable, and community-driven solutions.

Through this RFP, we seek to provide pilot funds that support investigators in stimulating research collaborations, generating preliminary findings and data that can be used to obtain external funding awards, and producing additional scholarly output. Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to collaborate with community-based colleagues on applications and research projects. Teams new to climate science and global mental health are encouraged to apply.

Successful applicants will address a critical gap in the body of research at the global mental health and climate intersection. Descriptive and formative studies are welcome, as are additions to already funded studies that demonstrate value added through consideration of the climate change-mental health nexus. Other priorities for the call include:

- a) Proposals that highlight community resilience and demonstrate a clear path toward future interventions (such as intervention development, adaptation, or implementation)
- b) Proposals that foster community partnership and multidirectional knowledge exchange
- c) Projects that demonstrate linkages with the [proposed climate change and global health observatory locations](#) in the Southeast US, Amazon, Eastern and Southern Africa, and Southeast Asia
- d) Proposals that describe a sustainable line of global mental health research and clear pathways for extramural funding.

Please note that these priorities are not strict criteria for eligibility, but that proposals that do not align with them clearly will have to make a compelling case for funding.

Proposal requirements

- Proposals must be collaborative; study teams must include investigators with expertise in global mental health AND climate change. We strongly encourage teams to include colleagues from low- and middle-income countries or under-resourced communities in high-income countries (including the United States). Multidisciplinary proposals that

include partnerships within and across Duke University, Duke Health, and other institutions are strongly encouraged.

- Proposal teams require a Duke faculty, research scientist, postdoctoral scholar/associate, or other scholar with a terminal degree (e.g., PhD, MD) as the PI or co-PI.
- Project teams must articulate a clear plan for community partnership in the research. International research projects must emphasize country-based partnership. Inclusion of community partners in the study team is strongly encouraged.

We expect to fund two pilot grants, depending on alignment with the funding sources for the RFP: 1) The Duke CGMH and 2) the DGHI Global Health & Climate Initiative. The Duke CGMH seeks to support community-based research ideas that will explore (1) mental health outcomes due to climate change, (2) community-based solutions to climate-driven mental health challenges, AND/OR (3) foundational work building toward mental health interventions. The DGHI Global Health & Climate Initiative aims to be a hub for interdisciplinary scholarship connecting health, life, social, physical, and human sciences to: advance climate change and health discovery; test and implement adaptation and mitigation strategies to help address adverse impacts; promote policy change; and develop the next generation of leaders in the global health and climate field.

Budgets

Applicants may apply for up to \$30,000 USD for a 24-month project. The budget may include supplies; support for technicians, research staff, graduate students, and community partners; research-related travel; and other justifiable and allowable research expenses. Faculty salary, travel to scientific meetings, journal publication fees, and indirect costs are not allowable expenses.

Application Requirements

The application should include the following materials.

Cover Page (1 page maximum). Must include the following information:

- Proposal title
- Brief justification for the proposed study, description of the study aims, and alignment of the study with this call for proposals
- Indication that unit leadership has been informed of and approved the submission of the pilot application
- Name, title, departmental affiliation, and email address of principal investigator(s)
- Name & Signature of Responsible Financial Administrator

Abstract (250 words maximum)

Research Plan (3 page maximum, single spaced, minimum 12 point font, 1" margins) including:

- Statement of research objectives

- Significance of the research (include: the critical gap to be addressed, the significance to the Duke CGMH and GH & Climate Initiative and the significance to the research setting)
- Proposed methods and plans for data analysis (specific details recommended)
- Description of the study team, including expertise in mental health and climate change
- Statement on how the study team will identify and/or support community-based solutions that align with the research objectives
- Statement on how the proposed research objectives support interventions or demonstrate a clear path toward future interventions (such as intervention development, adaptation, or implementation)
- Work already completed related to the proposed work (if relevant)
- Description of the research setting, including site/community collaboration plan (such as fostering relationships with new community partners and/or engaging existing community partners) and plans for multidirectional knowledge exchange
- Specific plans for scholarly output and future grant applications that will use pilot data obtained through this work

Proposed Study Timeline (1 page maximum)

Letters of Support from collaborating researchers, community partners, unit leadership, etc.

Budget and Justification

NIH Biosketch OR Curriculum Vitae of Principal Investigator(s)

- Include current grant support and limit to 5 pages for each principal investigator

Submission Format

Please combine all required elements into a single pdf document and submit via email to maeve.salm@duke.edu with the subject line “GMH and Climate Pilot Grant Submission.”

Timeline

Proposals due: July 15, 2025.

Inquiries

We welcome the opportunity to answer questions from potential applicants. Please submit inquiries related to this funding announcement to:

Maeve Salm, MSc
Clinical Research Coordinator
Duke Center for Global Mental Health
Email: maeve.salm@duke.edu