The most exciting elements of Interdisciplinary Research Leaders are learning from other cohort members and the resources available for participatory action research with local residents.”

—Dominic Moulden, Resource Organizer, Organizing Neighborhood Equity

Interdisciplinary Research Leaders is a national leadership program for teams of researchers and community partners, including nonprofit or government professionals, organizers, and advocates. These teams use the power of applied research—working with the community to explore critical issues and apply the findings—to advance health and equity. Their innovation helps build a Culture of Health, one that enables everyone in America to live longer, healthier lives.

- Collaborate with other innovative thinkers to lead change in programs and policies
- Extend your work in a new direction through a collaborative research project
- Receive financial support for program participation, as well as research project funding

For teams of researchers and community partners
APPLICATIONS OPEN IN JANUARY

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Each year, we select a new class of fellows to build their leadership skills, tap into funding for new projects, get refreshed and inspired, and increase their impact. Collaborating across sectors and disciplines, they build connections between factors that shape health, well-being, and equity—such as education, neighborhoods, social services, income, and faith.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

We seek teams of three—two researchers and one community partner—interested in applied research to build a Culture of Health. To drive change in every sector, teams represent both health and nonhealth fields and are cross-disciplinary when possible. Teams apply to work on one of two annual themes, which are announced each fall on our website. Past themes have included housing, early childhood, resilience, youth development, and rural health. Teams must:

• Incorporate multiple disciplines, such as public policy, design, health, transportation, social work, education, and urban planning.
• Have two researchers, each with a terminal degree (PhD, MD, DrPH) or a master’s degree with evidence of extensive professional experience, including significant research and publications.
• Include one community partner with community-oriented knowledge and relationships who is interested in gaining research capacity to increase impact.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Over the course of the three-year program, fellows will:

• Receive an annual amount of $25,000 per person for participation in the program and research project funding of up to $125,000 for the team—for salary, research costs, and more.
• Work on their team project with national program advisers.
• Develop high-level leadership skills through mentorship, networking, and an advanced leadership curriculum.
• Continue working in their home communities and apply knowledge to local needs.

RESULTS: ENHANCED SKILLS AND LEADERSHIP

Upon completion, fellows will have connections with a national group of leaders working in diverse sectors and will be equipped to:

• Lead and collaborate across sectors, professions, and disciplines.
• Engage with communities and influence systems and institutions.
• Apply research and data to strengthen programs and policies.
• Demonstrate a deep understanding of equity, Culture of Health, research, and other concepts.
• Advocate for systemic change.
• Frame issues and build public support.

TIMELINE

Timeline subject to change. Check our website for updates.

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH LEADERS
A National Leadership Program

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH LEADERS IS LED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA. PARTNERS INCLUDE:
AcademyHealth
ISAIAH
Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS AT RWJF

Interdisciplinary Research Leaders is just one of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s leadership programs for people who are interested in applying their expertise—no matter what they do—to help make our country healthier and more equitable. Some other programs are:

• Clinical Scholars, for health professionals in clinical, academic, or community settings
• Health Policy Research Scholars, for second-year doctoral students from underrepresented populations and/or disadvantaged backgrounds
• Culture of Health Leaders, for individuals from every field, profession, and sector

Information about these and additional leadership programs at:
www.rwjf.org/changeleaders