

Climate and Health Institute Community Member Application

Introduction

The World Health Organization as well as other leading public health journals identified climate change as the biggest health threat facing humanity. The Chicagoland area faces several climate change-challenges that are already impacting people's health including historic floods, worsening air quality, and deadly heatwaves. Environmental justice communities in the Chicagoland area are at a greater risk for these negative health impacts than other communities primarily due to historic disinvestment. Climate change is exacerbating the historic inequities these communities have been facing for decades.

The Climate and Health Institute (CHI), based in the UIC School of Public Health, aims to prepare future public health professionals for the public health impacts from climate change and increase knowledge and awareness among civic leaders and community members about climate change, its public health impacts, its disproportionate impact on environmental justice communities, and stewardship strategies to address it.

CHI is a two-year training program for undergraduate and graduate public health students that is partially supported by the US EPA. During the first year, ten selected students will receive trainings on climate change, its health impacts, its disproportionate impact on environmental justice communities, and climate-related stewardship actions. These trainings will be delivered by academicians and practitioners from the Chicagoland area.

CHI is also available to community members from the partnering municipalities. Community members' voices, perspectives, and representation are strongly desired to share their community's strengths, needs, and challenges. Up to 30 community members can participate in the trainings and, they will be eligible to receive continuing education contact hours for their participation, through the Great Lakes Center for Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety. Through traditional and experiential learning, community members and UIC students will learn from and work with community partners from four Chicagoland municipalities most impacted by climate change. During the second year, the students will apply what they learned. A pair of students will work with one of the community partners and develop a climate change and health project for the community. Each project will have an educational component and will be decided upon in collaboration with their assigned community partner. Participating community members will participate in the conversations about how to best connect with the community and will be asked to assist with the dissemination of the final products.

The community members will be expected to:

- Attend and actively participate, to the best of their ability, in all monthly 2-hour trainings from October 2022 – May 2023. The trainings will be offered virtually with a possible in-person option.
- Actively listen and be respectful to the trainers and peers
- Participate in evaluations when requested
- Participate in conversations on how to best connect with the community
- Assist with the dissemination of the final products

Application and Selection Process

Applicants will be selected based on the merit of the applicant’s personal statement and description of:

- Desire and commitment to participate in CHI
- Goals and objectives of the experience

Selected applicants will be a part of CHI for the monthly trainings from **October 2022-May 2023**. The dissemination of the final products will occur **January- May 2024**.

Selected community members will be asked to:

- 1) Participate in monthly trainings from October 2022-May 2023
- 2) Complete evaluation surveys and participate in a focus group.
- 3) Assist in disseminating the final products

Climate and Health Institute 2022-2024 Community Member Application

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:	
Permanent Street Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone:	Email:
Municipality (please check):	
Aurora: Chicago Heights: Hanover Park: Waukegan:	

2022-2024 Climate and Health Institute Application, *continued*

Personal Statement: In 500 words or less, indicate the following: 1) how is climate change impacting your community and your community's health; 2) what does environmental justice mean to you; and 3) why you would like to participate in the Climate and Health Institute.

Goals and Objectives: In 500 words or less, describe your goals and objectives for being a part of CHI, specifically how you see it impacting your community

2022-2024 Climate and Health Institute Application, *continued*

Application Requirements Checklist

A complete application package must include:

1. _____ Climate and Health Institute Community Member Application Form
2. _____ A personal statement (500 words or less)
3. _____ Goals and objectives (500 words or less)
4. _____ Attached Resume or CV

I certify the information given herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize verification on all information in this application as it relates to the selection process.

Signature _____ Date _____