**Climate and Health Equity Fellowship Opportunity**

In 2021, the National Medical Association (NMA) collaborated with the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health and launched a unique 10 month fellowship program for early to mid-career physicians in southeastern states. The purpose of the Climate and Health Equity Fellowship (CHEF) is to empower doctors of color to become leaders in climate and health equity policy solutions by providing them with education, skills, experience, and contacts. The Fellowship has been so successful that we are expanding the capacity to 16 fellows in 2022 and offering this training opportunity to physicians from other Consortium partners and affiliates.

**Our goal:** To generate a network of ethnically and racially diverse, knowledgeable and highly credible health leaders in climate, health, and equity, as part of a strategy to diversify climate and health leadership and advance an equitable clean energy future, especially in areas that are vulnerable to climate crises and have experienced systemic racial and climate injustice.

**Opportunity 2022:** This expansion will help other organizations increase the racial and ethnic diversity of their leadership on climate and health issues and environmental justice issues and encourage more participation in climate activities by physicians of color. The fellows will help their colleagues recognize how patients of color and low wealth patients of are disproportionately affected by climate change; they will also help your organization identify and recommend equitable climate adaptation solutions.

This is an opportunity for several organizations to nominate and sponsor a participant for the program. There are two ways to do this: 1. Sponsor a CHEF fellow from your organization at a cost of $10,000, 2. Help sponsor a CHEF fellow from your organization for $5,000 (splitting the $10,000 cost evenly with the Consortium). The funding will go to the fellow to buy two half days per month of his/her time over the 10 month period (February through December).

**Fellow Responsibilities**

Fellows must:

* Be able to engage over 10 months (February – December) in intensive monthly training and exercises.
* Travel to Washington, DC for an in-person two-day immersive orientation.
* Participate in virtual meetings twice monthly for four hours of didactic training on how climate affects health equity and skill building. Skills can include:
	+ Developing climate and health equity presentations,
	+ Writing op-eds and letters to the editor,
	+ Developing legislative testimony,
	+ Engaging in media interviews,
	+ Research and writing of scholarly articles for publication,
	+ Recording self-videos on climate and health equity,
	+ Community engagement and education.
* Engage in eight to ten hours of additional activities each month in between virtual meetings, including completing required readings and practicum activities to actualize the skills taught in the training sessions
* Develop and complete a capstone project of statewide, regional or national significance

**Who is eligible to apply?**

Physicians who:

* + Are members of and are sponsored by Consortium affiliated organizations
	+ Have exhibited leadership qualities
	+ Are willing and able to make the necessary time commitments
	+ Completed medical residency and are early to mid-career doctors - preferred
	+ Previous experience with communities of color and/or low wealth communities - preferred
	+ Work in the 17 states where the Consortium has affiliate organizations[[1]](#footnote-1) - preferred

We welcome doctors from all specialties to apply. To-date we have had a family physician, a pediatrician, an anesthesiologist, an ophthalmologist, an internist, and a surgeon. Each sponsoring medical society is limited to one nominee. The Consortium will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the medical society of the selected fellow.

**Fellow stipend:** $10,000-to be paid directly by the sponsoring medical society or divided evenly with the Consortium.

**Commitments due:** Commitments from organizations are due November 15, 2021. The organizations and the Consortium will then collaborate to recruit and select Fellows. Please submit a statement of interest to Dr. Kimberly Williams at kimberlywilliamsphd@gmail.com.

1. The states are California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Montana, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, Utah, Wisconsin [↑](#footnote-ref-1)