Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness

2026 Request for Proposals

The Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness (RGC) at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University (GW) is pleased to announce its annual research pilot grant award competition. This year, we will make up to $120,000 available for pilot grants and will fund up to four awards of $25,000–40,000 each. These grants support the RGC's vision of healthy and thriving communities adapting to climate-related health hazards and challenges, and its renewed mission to promote equitable adaptation among communities most at risk from climate-related health hazards and challenges by cultivating research, education, and collaboration. Further information about our center and our strategic plan is available on our website.

Pilot funds are available to investigators whose proposals are directed toward climate adaptation interventions and prevention of communicable or noncommunicable diseases. Projects can be focused on the DC metropolitan area, climate vulnerable areas in the U.S, or in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). A particular area of interest is the development or implementation of cost-effective strategies that support adaptation to climate change impacts on human health and align with the NIH Health and Extreme Weather Strategic Framework.

The RGC's pilot grant program will fund Principal Investigators (PI) from the GW Milken Institute School of Public Health (GWSPH), the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS), or the GW School of Nursing. Grants involving cross-disciplinary co-investigators across the university and in partnering communities are encouraged. While applications from all eligible faculty and postdoctoral investigators will be considered, priority will be given to investigators who have not previously received funding from any GWSPH centers or the Sustainable Research Institute. Pilot grant recipients will be known as Redstone Global Center Fellows.

The pilot grant program serves as a platform for multi-disciplinary teams of researchers and community partners to enhance skills, connections, and research agendas in topical areas that advance disease prevention and adaptation interventions. These grants are also intended to help PIs position for sponsored research opportunities with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF) or other external funders.

Eligibility: Who Should Apply?

The RGC pilot awards are open to multidisciplinary teams led by PIs at GWSPH, GWSMHS or GW School of Nursing. Collaborative partnership between schools across the university and with external community partners is encouraged. Researchers from academic institutions outside GW may also serve as collaborators or consultants on the project but are not eligible to apply directly as a PI. In addition to projects with faculty PIs from the three schools at GW, one pilot study with a post-doctoral PI will be considered for funding. Post-doctoral PIs who secure an initial pilot award will be eligible to apply again for a second year of funding.

Full-time active status includes tenure and non-tenure track faculty in the three schools listed above. Faculty may be regular or research track at the rank of assistant or associate professor. Preference will be given to junior faculty. The current application cannot overlap the aims of a funded grant. If a notice of award occurs for a grant with similar or overlapping aims before or during involvement with the RGC's pilot grant program, please notify the RGC director immediately.

Applicants with existing support from a major grant may be considered for funding if the pilot study represents an opportunity to add on or leverage current relationships from their discipline and explores a new area of adaptation or prevention research on climate-sensitive diseases. An investigator may not: (a) serve as PI on more than one proposal in a given round, or (b) serve as PI and co-investigator (Co-I) in a given round. An investigator may serve as a Co-I on an unlimited number of proposals in a given round.

Funds will not be granted for similar projects currently supported by other internal or external funding mechanisms. Funds cannot be requested for continuation of existing funded projects or as bridge funding for research activities or staff. Second submissions with the same research aims will not be accepted.

While the overall project should focus on climate adaptation and disease prevention, individual team members can bring specific skill sets to the project from such diverse fields as public health, environmental health, public policy, social sciences, demography, and communications. We encourage applications from early-stage investigators and investigators from gender, racial, and ethnic groups which are underrepresented in the climate and health research field.

What Kinds of Projects Will Be Funded?

The research project should respond to community-identified issues and employ environmental or health data to explore the human and health impacts of a proposed or existing climate-related hazard prevention or adaptation intervention. Examples of the kind of research we are looking for include but are not limited to: (1) health and equity benefits of climate-sensitive disease prevention interventions; (2) climate hazard adaptation responses for community health networks to reduce mortality and morbidity; and (3) community-centric projects that identify health concerns and grassroots solutions related to climate change. Geographic scope could range from community scale to national and international. Projects should be responsive to the NIH Health and Extreme Weather Strategic Framework and should generate data to position for competitive sponsored projects. Clinical trial activities, as defined by NIH, are not allowed.

Research approaches could include intervention research, applied qualitative or quantitative research, or mixed methods research.

Applications with community partners that are involved in the application generation will be looked upon favorably. Community partners may be local, state, or national governments; community-based organizations; or other non-academic end users of scientific research. These partners are expected to co-create the research questions to ensure they reflect community

concerns and participate in study implementation. Examples of community participation in research implementation could include coordinating an intervention, data collection, development of deliverables, dissemination of results, research translation, etc.

Funding and Project Duration

- Up to **four** projects will be funded in this grant cycle year.
    - Funding for faculty can range from $25,000 to $40,000 depending on the nature of the project.
    - Funding for post-doctoral fellows will be capped at $25,000.
- Funding for faculty grants will be limited to 12 months and is not renewable. Post-doctoral candidates may apply for a second year of funding to extended currently awarded pilot projects.
- Unspent funds at the end of the grant year will revert to the RGC.
- Funding will be on a cost-reimbursable basis from accounts set up in the PI's department.

Allowable and Unallowable Expenses

- Allowable expenses: Supplies for data collection and analysis, reasonable travel expenses essential to achieving project aims or to present pilot study data at scientific meetings, equipment, research support staff, Graduate Research Assistants (for faculty), and publication costs. If protected time is not available, up to 5% of the PI's salary can be provided by this grant if the department provides matching support. Allowable expenses also include compensation for staff time, as well as honoraria for community members' time.
- Non-allowable expenses: capital equipment, indirect costs, rent, and hospitality charges.

Application Process and Deadlines

Deadline	**Submission**
March 11, 2026 Close of Business (5PM ET)	1-page Letter of Intent
April 10, 2026 COB (5PM ET)	Full Proposal in one PDF
June 1, 2026	Decisions announced
July 1, 2026	Project start date

One-Page Letter of Intent (11pt Arial, 1-inch margins)

Each team of applicants should submit a one-page letter of intent. This letter should include:

- Project title
- Names, affiliations, and contact information of the lead PI and co-PIs, possible community partner, and other participants
- Disclosure of whether the PI has current or prior awards from GWSPH (e.g., Research Innovation Award, REACH, Redstone) or the Sustainable Research Institute

- Concise summary of the research project, including the problem to be addressed and the type of data and analysis used.
- What existing community needs will the project address and how will it do that?
- Any missing components that the research team would like assistance with

Please submit the one-page letter of intent to redstonectr@gwu.edu, using the email Subject Line "**Redstone Global Center RFP submission**," by March 11, 2026, 5PM ET.

Full Application Instructions

- Investigators should be aware that reviewers outside of their designated research areas might review the application. Therefore, the proposal should be written in a manner that can be understood by non-content experts.
- Applications will be reviewed by the Center's Internal Advisory Group using the standard NIH scoring criteria and scoring sheet (see http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer_review_process.htm). Applicants will receive written feedback, regardless of whether their proposal is accepted for funding.
- In keeping with NIH standards, use standard layout size of 8 ½ x 11 with at least 1/2-inch margins.
- Use an Arial typeface (or other accepted NIH fonts), a black font color, and a font size of 11 points or larger. Charts, graphs, figures, and so on may be in color with a font size no smaller than 8 points. Text should be single-spaced. SF 424 guidance should be consulted.
- Page limits for each section of the application are stated below.
- Follow the outline below, Sections 1-9, in developing your proposal.

Section 1 Face Page. **(1 page)** Required form provided.

1. Abstract of the research project written in lay language that can be understood by the general public.

Section 2 Cover letter. **(1 page)** Applicants must submit a cover letter to the RGC that provides:

1. Project Title
2. A brief description of your proposed idea and your expertise.
3. List all project participants and their role(s) on the project.
4. A specific statement of how your proposal is consistent with the Center's activities.
5. Describe how your research is innovative in the context of any possible specific funding opportunity (faculty only).
6. Discuss previous/current grant funding experience and your expectations for how this pilot project will advance your research career trajectory and your ability to secure extramural funding (faculty only).

Section 3 Budget Page. **(1 page)** Use attached budget template. Follow NIH guidelines for a budget and budget justification.

1. Faculty applicants may request up to $40,000; $25,000 for post-doctoral applicants.
2. Indirect costs are not allowed.

Section 4 Budget Justification Page. **(1 page)** Follow standard SF 424 instructions. It is expected that the project budget will be developed collaboratively by the researchers and will support the effort and expenses of any possible community partner(s).

Section 5 Biographical Sketch Page. **(4 pages)** Use the standard NIH 'biosketch' format, including the "Personal Statement" for the PI and all Co-Investigators.

Section 6 Research Plan. **(4 pages)** The Research Plan, including all components of section 6 must include the following:

- 6a. *Specific Aims*. **(½ page)** List the specific aims for the proposed project and relate them to the broad, long-term goals of the project. 6b. *Significance*. Describe the rationale for the proposed study and state the overall objective. Review relevant prior work and identify the gaps that the project is intended to fill.
    - Describe what concern the research question is responsive to, how that concern was identified, how any community partners contributed to the development of the research questions, how community partners will participate in study processes, and the plan for communicating project results to community members.
- 6c. *Innovation.* Discuss the novel ideas or contributions that the project offers. Clearly state the importance and relevance of the proposed work (e.g., to test the stated hypothesis, create a novel design, adapt to a specific problem, test a disease prevention intervention, address a critical barrier to progress in the field or develop a new intervention).
    - Proposals must describe how the research will add to the climate and health literature and how the proposed approach deploys innovative methods to fill identified knowledge gaps.

  Significance and innovation should be approximately 1 page, together.

- 6d. *Research Design and Methods*. Describe the research design, conceptual framework, and procedures that will be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Describe the approach to be used for data analyses and interpretation. Justify the sample size.
    - Applications should describe the kinds of climate-focused and health data that they will work with in their application, showing the linkages between climate change hazards and health outcomes.
- 6e. *Tentative sequence or timetable for the project*. Human Subjects Sections and IRB protocols do not have to be provided at this point but may be requested if awarded. This section should describe the key tasks and milestones of the pilot project and when they will be accomplished during the grant timeline.
- 6f. *Future Plan*. This section must explain how the project will prepare the research team to apply for a future sponsored project submission. Information should include how your data will increase the likelihood of external funding and and when the submission could take place.

  The Research Design and Methods, and Study Timeline and Future Plan should be approximately 2 pages, together.

Section 7 References. **(no page limit)** Use the NIH format to cite your literature.

Section 8 Appendix. **(no page limit)** Provide any letters of support from research collaborators, consultants, co-investigators, or other supporting documents as needed.

Section 9 Departmental Chair Letter. **(no page limit)** The PI's department chair must submit a letter of support with regard to your eligibility for and participation in the Redstone Global Center Pilot Grant Program. We ask that chairs reflect on and address the following items in the letter:

1. Discuss the researcher's current grant funding (approximation) and confirm that this project does not overlap with any other funded projects. Please state if new hires have existing start-up funds.
2. Explicitly state that the PI will commit 10-15% effort to successful completion of their pilot project proposal aims
3. Give your impression of the researcher's long-term investment and longevity in your department; specifically, "Do you see this researcher as a promising contributor to your department 5 years from today?"
4. Provide an endorsement of the researcher's work ethic, career planning, and ability to follow through on tasks within restricted time frames
5. If salary support is requested in the application, indicate that the department will provide matching support.

Post Award Requirements

A progress report must be submitted to the RGC six months after the initiation of funding. A final report must be submitted at the end of the project. The reports should describe unexpected barriers and novel insights. At the end of the pilot project, investigators may be asked to present their findings at an RGC event. All grantees must document that they have submitted a full proposal to the NIH or another funder within twelve months of completing their pilot projects.

Application Submission and Deadline

Please submit the full proposal in one PDF file by April 10, 2026, 5 pm ET to redstonectr@gwu.edu.

Scoring Criteria

Applications will be scored by the RGC's Score Committee based on following criteria: (1) innovation (30%); (2) research approach (40%); (3) project team (10%); (4) significance (10%); and (5) potential for leading to a subsequent successful grant application (10%).

Decisions will be announced by June 1, 2026, with a project start date of July 1, 2026.

Awardee Requirements

- One aim of the pilot awards is to lead to NIH/NSF or similar funding. Awardees are required to keep the RGC informed of any funding related to the pilot project.
- Awardees must follow NIH guidelines for depositing the manuscript in PubMed Central. An electronic copy of all publications should be provided to the RGC.

- Awardees automatically become Fellows of the RGC and are expected to participate in RGC activities (seminars, workshops and trainings, journal club, networking events, and scientific working groups, if applicable). Awardees will be asked to present their research-in-progress at a RGC event at least once during the project period. As RGC Fellows, awardees are also invited to take advantage of RGC resources, including assistance in career development activities.
- Awardees must supply the following IRB information, if relevant, to the Redstone Global Center Global Center Administrator: University IRB approval/exemption letter.
- Study team members must complete CITI certification (RCR, Research Security, and HIPS) and preregister (ideally) or register their study in OSF.
- With guidance from the RGC, each awardee is required to draft a plain language summary of the proposed research for the RGC's website.
- Awardees must draft a Data Sharing Plan for partnering organizations if applicable.
- A midpoint project report is due 30 days following the midpoint of the grant funding period and a final project update within 30 days following the completion of the grant funding period. Additional updates and a presentation of pilot results will also be required.

Resources

- NIH Health and Extreme Weather Strategic Framework
- Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness

Questions?

If you have some components of a proposal but are missing others, RGC staff help answer questions or connect you to resources. Contact redstonectr@gwu.edu with any questions.

1. Face Page for Redstone Global Center Pilot Grants

PROJECT TITLE:

SPH INVESTIGATOR

NAME:
TITLE:
PHONE:
E-MAIL:

ABSTRACT: (Limit length to 20 lines or less of text, .5 Margins, 11-point Arial font)

1. DETAILED PROJECT BUDGET

DETAILED PROJECT BUDGET **DIRECT COSTS ONLY**	From (Date) 07/01/14	Through (Date) 06/30/15

PERSONNEL				DOLLAR AMOUNT		
Name	Role on Project	% Effort on Project	Base Salary	Salary for Project	Fringe Benefits	**Totals**
			SUBTOTALS			
CONSULTANT COSTS *(Itemize by category)*						

SUBTOTAL	
EQUIPMENT *(Itemize)*	

SUBTOTAL	
SUPPLIES *(Itemize by category)*	

SUBTOTAL	
TRAVEL	

SUBTOTAL	
OTHER EXPENSES *(Itemize by category)*	

SUBTOTAL	
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS FOR BUDGET PERIOD	
TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS FOR BUDGET PERIOD	**N/A**
TOTAL COSTS FOR BUDGET PERIOD	

3. BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

4. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors. Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.**

NAME:

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

POSITION TITLE:

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE *(if applicable)*	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY

Please refer to the Biographical Sketch sample in order to complete sections A, B, C, and D of the Biographical Sketch.