Who We Are

The IU Environmental Resilience Institute (ERI) mission is to co-create environmental resilience and climate solutions by integrating research, education, and community. At ERI, we envision a future deeply and broadly transformed through co-produced knowledge and action that spurs systemic change. By moving away from the rigid and unsustainable strategies of the past, we can create a resilient and sustainable tomorrow—together.

The IU Center for Rural Engagement (CRE) is reimagining the relationship between universities and rural communities. CRE calls on the research, expertise, teaching, and service of IU Bloomington faculty, staff, and students to address the challenges Indiana communities face and to enhance opportunities in collaboration with communities. We are leading new pathways to partnerships between non-land-grant, research institutions and rural communities.

Position Summary

Up to four McKinney Climate Fellows will be responsible for taking the lead on select initiatives and assist with sustainability, climate, and community resiliency projects. The Fellow will provide support for the Indiana Resilience Funding Hub (IRFH), a project of the IU Environmental Resilience Institute and IU Center for Rural Engagement, to assist rural communities across Indiana in their need for grant-writing support, capacity building, technical assistance, and more. The IRFH was developed as a partnership between both centers in response to the Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and other federal funding dollars being released to support the local government climate, clean energy, and resilience projects.

The Indiana Resilience Funding Hub goals and projects include:

- Build a network between IRFH and community leaders to develop regular communication channels, identify preliminary interest in resilience projects, and raise awareness of IU’S support offerings.
- Identify challenges and opportunities for climate resilience projects in communities, leveraging ERI’s tools and resources, and engaging communities in utilizing these tools and programs.
- Identify strengths and weaknesses for funding and managing these projects to prepare meaningful plans and tactics to address community needs.
- Support communities in developing, submitting, and managing grant proposals for climate and energy projects.

By the end of 2023, IRFH aims to bring 5-8 communities engaged in the Hub to submission of at least one grant proposal in support of their efforts. These Fellows will work closely with the Community Funding Specialist in support of IRFH goals.
Duties will include:

- Complete mandatory MCF program onboarding with ERI
- Research into federal funding opportunities
- Data analysis in support of federal grants
- Grant writing and technical assistance support for communities submitting federal grants
- Support IRFH communities pursuing federal funding for climate and energy projects
- Participate in regular conference calls with ERI staff
- Submit weekly reports over the course of the fellowship

Qualifications

- Interest in local climate action
- Experience and/or coursework in sustainability studies
- Experience working with Microsoft Office products
- Effective verbal and written communication
- Self-motivated
- Ability to prioritize and manage multiple ongoing tasks
- Fund development or grant-writing experience a plus
- Equity mindset/lens and other critical indicators related to DEI in climate work

Compensation

Compensation will be in the form of a scholarship through the Environmental Resilience Institute. The Fellows will work part-time in the fall for 200 hours, with a start date of August 21. Scholarship for undergraduates is $2,400 for the fall; for graduate students, $3,000.

Feedback and Evaluation

The Fellows will be given regular feedback from staff on progress and performance. Success in the fellowship will be determined by the completion of specified projects in a professional and timely manner. The Fellows should learn how this organization identifies its sustainability priorities, effective principles of communication, and how to develop and maintain professional relationships.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The McKinney Climate Fellows Program supports the continual advancement and development of diverse, inclusive, and equitable spaces. Indiana climate change solutions should be equitable in implementation, and projects with equity considerations are encouraged to reduce climate change impacts on marginalized communities in the state.

Application instructions

Eligibility: current IU students (all IU campuses), including international students with US work authorization, with a graduation date of May 2024 or later. To apply for this position, complete an application on the Environmental Resilience Institute’s website. If you have questions about the program or any of the positions available, email Program Manager Elspeth Hayde at haydene@iu.edu.