Who We Are
The Monroe County Government is a governmental entity within the State of Indiana, whose various duties are defined by statute. Monroe County was created by the State Legislature on January 14, 1818. The present Courthouse was dedicated on July 4, 1908 and is located in the center of downtown Monroe County, the county seat. This historic structure is surrounded by immense native trees, and numerous dedicated monuments all within a beautiful park-like setting. Additional government buildings are scattered throughout the county.

There are three broad areas of climate impact in Monroe County. First, the range of community and infrastructure services offered by Monroe County are vast, and they include important departments when considering climate change, including Health, various Justice Departments, Highway, Planning, Parks and Rec, Soil and Water Conservation, and more. Second, services are overseen by civil leaders who are elected. The Monroe County Board of Commissioners have a wide range of executive and administrative authority. There are three commissioners. The County Council has a wide range of fiscal Authority. There are seven council members. Lastly, the Monroe County Environmental Commission serves in an advisory role and focuses on educating the community and engaging residents and businesses in supporting initiatives that will help ensure a healthier and more economically viable future for the County. You can find all this information and more at http://co.monroe.in.us.

Summary
Monroe County Government seeks a highly motivated student to assist with the development of a community-wide climate resilience plan in the summer of 2023.

The intern will work with the Monroe County Government’s political leaders, which is a participant in the Indiana University Environmental Resilience Institute’s 2023 Resilience Cohort program. The successful candidate will receive on-the-job training from the Geos Institute and ERI staff on how to: analyze climate hazards and associated physical and social vulnerabilities using leading national climate data tools; deeply engage the public and other stakeholders in an equitable, whole-of-community planning approach; develop strategies to improve climate resilience; and coordinate a climate resilience planning process. The intern will also develop technical and project management skills beneficial to a career in local government, climate change science and policy, environmental management, and related fields.

Monroe County Government is interested in the possibility of extending the Fellowship through the 2023-2024 academic year on a part-time basis if an extension is mutually agreeable to both the Monroe County Government and the Fellow, and pending funding availability.
Duties and Qualifications

Duties will include:

• Communicate with government staff, members of the public, and other local stakeholders throughout the course of the project
• Utilize web-based data tools to execute moderately complex data analysis
• Support the development of a climate trends primer that identifies climate projections for Monroe County
• Support the development of a community primer that identifies socioeconomic characteristics of community
• Engage with members of the public and other stakeholders to gather input on vulnerabilities and community priorities
• Promote opportunities for the public to engage with plan development
• Assist in developing strategies and/or drafting a climate resilience plan as time allows
• Assist with other sustainability projects depending on time and interest
• Participate in regular Resilience Cohort webinars and conference calls
• Attend the McKinney Climate Fellows virtual Climate Camp training, hosted by the Environmental Resilience Institute in May 2023
• Attend weekly (virtual) “Lunch and Learn” sessions as part of the McKinney Climate Fellows program
• Submit weekly reports on Canvas over the course of the Fellowship

Qualifications

• Prior quantitative coursework or research experience, preferably in a discipline applied to sustainability such as environmental science, environmental management, engineering, chemistry, environmental economics, or a related field
• Experience manipulating data using spreadsheets
• Experience summarizing research in reports and presentations
• Ability to follow detailed and technical instructions
• Effective written communication, especially for a public audience
• Exemplary verbal communication, including speaking publicly
• Self-motivated, proactive, and flexible with strong attention to detail
• Ability to prioritize and manage multiple ongoing tasks
• Equity mindset and an understanding of justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion in the climate change field

Preferred Skills

• Experience evaluating climate trends and hazards, as well as social vulnerability
• Experience coordinating events, especially public engagement
• Experience creating reports
Feedback and Evaluation

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

Compensation

Compensation will be in the form of a scholarship through the Environmental Resilience Institute. The Fellow will work full time for 10 weeks, with a start date in late May or early June, arranged in coordination with the Fellow and ERI staff. The Fellow may be selected for a 2023-2024 academic year extension, subject to the availability of funds, and the interest of both Monroe County and the Fellow in extending the Fellowship.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The McKinney Climate Fellows and Resilience Cohort programs support the continual advancement and development of diverse, inclusive, and equitable spaces. Indiana climate solutions should advance equity, with climate plans including strategies that reduce climate change impacts on marginalized communities in the state.

Application Process

To apply for this position, complete an application via the Environmental Resilience Institute’s website, which includes additional details about the application process and timeline. If you have questions about the program or any of the positions available, email Anagha Gore, Resilience Programs Coordinator, at anagore@iu.edu.