



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SCORCH invites proposals for Research Pilot Project Awards

Funding for 3 – 6 awards of up to **\$50,000** will be provided for pilot research projects.

Notice of Intent to Apply Due – November 10, 2025, 11:59pm AZ

Application Due by December 1, 2025, 11:59pm AZ

(Awards will be funded from January 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026)

The Southwest Center for Resilience on Climate Change and Health (SCORCH) is pleased to announce a call for pilot project proposals that advance innovative work at the intersection of extreme weather and its impact on health. This program seeks to support early-stage research and creative engagement with communities to generate actionable knowledge, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and build the evidence base for addressing health impacts of climate change. Collaborative and innovative proposals under two tracks will be considered for funding:

Track 1 **Innovative Extreme Weather & Health Research**

Track 2 **Applied Climate & Health Action Community Partnership Research**

SCORCH Center Mission: SCORCH is dedicated to research and programs that will empower communities in dry regions, both locally and globally, to adapt to extreme weather and climate-related health risks.

Overall Program Objectives: SCORCH seeks innovative proposals that address our **research focus areas** and priorities:

- 1) Understanding the indirect and long-term health consequences of exposure to extreme weather events in arid regions;
- 2) Building systems that provide forecasting and early warning to motivate community action and improve health;
- 3) Developing built environments that support health; and
- 4) Strengthening community engagement to improve relevance and translation of research.

Details by Award Category:

Innovative Extreme Weather & Health Research Projects (Track 1)	Applied Climate & Health Action Community Partnership Research Projects (Track 2)
Eligibility Criteria	
1) Open to all University of Arizona faculty. Note that preference will be given to early career researchers within ten years of terminal degree. 2) Research teams must include a College of Public Health (MEZCOPH) or College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences (CALES) faculty member as a co-Investigator. 3) Research teams must include at least two investigators from different colleges.	1) Open to all University of Arizona faculty. Note that preference will be given to early career researchers within ten years of terminal degree 2) Research teams must include a College of Public Health (MEZCOPH) or College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences (CALES) faculty member as a co-Investigator. 3) In addition, the PI team or key personnel must include an individual from a community partner organization (e.g., community or civic organizations such as 501c3 organizations, tribal entities, local government bodies, faith-based, public health, or healthcare organizations).

Objectives	
- Proposals seeking to apply under this track should focus on advancing scientific understanding of how climate variability, extreme weather, and environmental changes affect human health and well-being. - Develop and implement innovative strategies to mitigate the health impacts of extreme weather in arid regions. - Foster effective responses to extreme weather-related health challenges. - Build new interdisciplinary teams and develop their capacity to apply for future funding. - Support projects that will lead to future extramural funding proposals.	- This track supports academic-community partnership-based projects that link academic researchers with community organizations, local governments, or public health practitioners to co-develop, test, or evaluate solutions addressing extreme weather and climate hazards. - Proposals seeking to apply under this track should address the following: - How the academic and community partners will share leadership, decision-making, and research responsibilities; implement equitable knowledge exchange; and develop practical outcomes that strengthen community resilience to extreme weather-related health impacts. - Spark academic-community research collaborations to identify, develop, and implement effective responses to health impacts of extreme weather in arid regions. - Increase capacity for obtaining additional funding for continued collaboration with community partners. - Support projects that will lead to future extramural funding proposals.
Priority Areas	
- Understanding the indirect and long-term health consequences of exposure to extreme weather events in arid regions. - Building systems that provide forecasting and early warning to motivate community action and improve health. - Development of adaptation tools to supporting climate readiness and response to health threats.	- Development, implementation, and evaluation of place-based, community intervention activities to address health impacts of extreme weather. - Co-design of extreme weather and health resilience interventions with community partners. - Participatory research or citizen science addressing local exposures (e.g., extreme heat, air quality, expansion of vectors). - Enhancing awareness and mitigation of health-related impacts of extreme weather events in vulnerable populations. - Proposal must include a letter of support from at least one community partner detailing their role and expected contributions throughout the project.
Evaluation Criteria	
See detailed Evaluation Criteria here. Importance of the Research (<i>Should it be done?</i>) Does the proposed project address/advance one or more of SCORCH's research priority areas? Does the proposed project address a significant need or health issue linked to climate, and does it offer an innovative approach? - Significance and Relevance - Innovation Rigor and Feasibility (<i>Can it be done well?</i>) Can the work be accomplished within the proposed timeframe and resources? - Approach - Rigor - Feasibility	See detailed Evaluation Criteria here. Importance of the Research (<i>Should it be done?</i>) How important is the proposed project to advancing understanding or action at the intersection of extreme weather, climate and health? Does the proposed project address a significant community need or health issue linked to extreme weather and climate, and does it offer an innovative or actionable approach? - Significance and Relevance - Innovation Rigor and Feasibility (<i>Can it be done well?</i>) Can the work be accomplished within the proposed timeframe and resources? - Approach - Rigor - Feasibility

Evaluation Criteria (continued)	
Expertise and Resources <i>(Are the expertise and resources in place to do it?)</i> Do the Principal Investigator (PI) and project team have the expertise, commitment, and resources necessary to execute the proposed project successfully? - Investigator(s) - Environment	Expertise and Resources <i>(Are the expertise and resources in place to do it?)</i> Do the Principal Investigator (PI), project team, and partners have the expertise, commitment, and resources necessary to execute this collaboration successfully? - Investigator(s) - Environment Community partnership <i>(Does the proposal demonstrate genuine partnership, shared leadership, and the potential for equitable collaboration between researchers and community partners?)</i> - Leadership statement and plan - Potential for sustainable partnership
Funding Use Guidance	
- May not include faculty salaries except for research track faculty (capped at 5% FTE with a maximum of \$12,500) - Allowable funding categories*: - Salary for UA students, post-docs, and other personnel - Equipment, supplies, travel * <i>Note: Other proposed expense categories would need to be discussed with and approved by SCORCH should the proposal be awarded to ensure alignment with funding goals and university policies.</i>	- May not include faculty salaries except for research track faculty (capped at 5% FTE with a maximum of \$12,500) - Allowable funding categories*: - Salary for UA students, post-docs, and other personnel - Community organization staff and personnel - Equipment, supplies, travel * <i>Note: Other proposed expense categories would need to be discussed with and approved by SCORCH should the proposal be awarded to ensure alignment with funding goals and university policies.</i> - We recommend that approximately 50% of the total budget be directed to the community partner(s) to support partner activities including salary, stipends, travel, co-development of meetings, and/or data collection.
Deliverables	
If awarded, a Principal Investigator or designee will be required to complete the following: - Present overview of progress to date at a SCORCH research forum in Spring 2026 with SCORCH investigators, community advisory board members, and internal advisory board members. - Collaborate with SCORCH team to develop a visual abstract for the SCORCH newsletter in early Summer 2026. - Work with the CEC and/or Data Visualization core to develop a public facing product(s). - Submit a written final report detailing the project outcomes and impact, due July 31, 2026. - Include publications, partnerships, and external grant submissions. - If proposing community engagement, include details on the following: - Describe “lessons learned”. - Describe changes implemented. - Provide estimated numbers of community members reached. - Include publications and external grant submissions.	If awarded, a Principal Investigator or designee will be required to complete the following: - Present overview of progress to date at a SCORCH research forum in Spring 2026 with SCORCH investigators, community advisory board members, and internal advisory board members. - Collaborate with SCORCH team to develop a visual abstract for the SCORCH newsletter in early Summer 2026. - Work with the CEC and/or Data Visualization core to develop a public facing product(s). - Submit a written final report detailing the project outcomes and impact, due July 31, 2026: - Describe “lessons learned” from academic-community partnership including successes and challenges. - Describe changes implemented. - Reflect on potential for replication in other communities. - Provide estimated numbers of community members reached. - Include publications and external grant submissions. - Provide statement of potential for continuing the community-academic partnership.

2026 Cycle Timeline	
Notice of Intent to Apply Due	Monday, November 10, 2025 – 11:59PM AZ
Application Due	Monday, December 1, 2025 – 11:59PM AZ
Notification of Selection (anticipated)	Monday, December 19, 2025
Project Period of Performance	January 1, 2026 – June 30,2026
Final Report Due	Friday, July 31, 2026 – 4:59PM AZ

Notice of Intent to Apply – Due Monday, November 10, 2025, 11:59PM AZ

Access required Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI) [here](#).

- Tentative Proposed Project Title
- Description of Proposed Topic Area (*two sentences*)
- Research category:
 - ☐ Innovative Extreme Weather/Health Research Project
 - ☐ Applied Extreme Weather and Climate/Health Action and Community Partnerships Research Project
- Request for Assistance from SCORCH in Identifying a Potential Community Partner?
- Submitting Researcher
 - First Name
 - Last Name
 - Email Address
 - UA College

ONLINE APPLICATION – Access Here

Online Application Components

A) Award Category/Track & Brief Proposal Description

- ☐ Innovative Extreme Weather & Health Research

- Proposal Title
- Abstract (*1,900 max characters*)

B) Investigators

Principal Investigator

- First Name
- Last Name
- Title
- Email Address
- Phone Number
- College

Co-Investigator

- First Name
- Last Name
- Title
- Email Address
- Phone Number
- College

2nd Co-Investigator (if applicable)

- First Name
- Last Name
- Title
- Email Address
- Phone Number
- College

C. Funding

- Budget Amount Requested
- Additional Funding Source & Amount (*if applicable*)

D. Involvement of Subjects

- Human Subjects (*if applicable*)
- Animal Subjects (*if applicable*)

A) Award Category/Track & Brief Proposal Description

- ☐ Applied Extreme Weather & Climate Health Action Community Partnership

- Proposal Title
- Abstract (*1,900 max characters*)

B) Investigators

Principal Investigator

- First Name
- Last Name
- Title
- Email Address
- Phone Number
- College

Community Partner Co-Investigator

- First Name
- Last Name
- Title
- Email Address
- Phone Number
- Organization Name
- Street Address
- City/Town
- Postal Code
- Website

2nd Co-Investigator (if applicable)

- First Name
- Last Name
- Title
- Email Address
- Phone Number
- College
- Letter of Partnership or Memorandum of Collaboration from Community Partner

Online Application Components (continued)

E. Project Description • Background & Significance (1,900 max characters) • Project Relevance (1,900 max characters) • Objectives & Specific Aims (1,900 max characters) • Methodology (1,900 max characters) • Impact (1,900 max characters) • Collaborators (1,900 max characters) F. Timeline & Budget Justification • Excel spreadsheet download, completed spreadsheet upload G. Sustainability & Future Funding Plan (1,900 max characters) H. References/Citations PDF (1) upload I. Investigator Biosketches • PDF (1) upload with NSF or NIH style biosketches for all faculty investigators (5-page max/investigator) J. Early-Career Researchers (if applicable) Description of how award will further research work and interests (700 max characters)	C. Funding • Budget Amount Requested • Additional Funding Source & Amount (if applicable) D. Involvement of Subjects • Human Subjects (if applicable) • Animal Subjects (if applicable) E. Project Description • Background & Significance (1,900 max characters) • Project Relevance (1,900 max characters) • Objectives & Specific Aims (1,900 max characters) • Methodology (1,900 max characters) • Impact (1,900 max characters) • Collaborators (1,900 max characters) F. Timeline & Budget Justification • Excel spreadsheet download, completed spreadsheet upload G. Sustainability & Future Funding Plan (1,900 max characters) H. References/Citations PDF (1) upload I. Investigator Biosketches/CVs/Resumés PDF (1) upload including: • NSF or NIH style biosketches for all faculty investigators (5-page max/investigator) • Community Co-Investigator CV or resumé J. Early-Career Researchers (if applicable) Description of how award will further research work and interests (700 max characters)
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Funding generously provided by **Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH)** &
College of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences (CALES)

We look forward to receiving innovative proposals that will help address extreme heat in arid lands and improve health outcomes in our communities.