

CLIMATE + HEALTH EXCELLENCE CENTERS (CHEX)

LOI Application Instructions

August 7, 2025 (3:00 pm EST)

KEY DATES

Invitation to submit a full proposal	October 24, 2025
Full proposal due	December 4, 2025 by 3:00pm EST
Finalist Interviews	March 2026
Notice of award	May 31, 2026
Award start date	August 1, 2026
Award end date	July 31, 2031

START EARLY AND PLAN AHEAD!

- Applications for the upcoming deadline will not be accepted after 3:00 pm EST on the deadline date. **The online application system shuts down automatically at the deadline and the SUBMIT button will not process a submission.**
- A completed proposal consists of data entry fields submitted through the online module plus a series of PDF attachments and approval from the institution's signing official.
- Applications **will require** a signature from the institutional signing official from the institution where the award will occur. The signatory official will receive an email once their contact information is added to the proposal. The candidate should ideally follow up with the signing official and provide instructions. The signing official must "sign off" by the application deadline at 3:00 pm.
- All attachments must be uploaded as Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files.
- **NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED.** After the 3pm deadline, applicants with incomplete proposals and those not adhering to instructions will be disqualified. Only applications submitted through the BWF online application website will be accepted.

GETTING STARTED ON THE LETTER OF INTENT

Overview of LOI Proposal Elements

1. Proposal Information
2. Applicant Information
3. Applicant Demographics
4. Institution Information
5. Partner Information (if applicable)
6. Five Critical Questions
7. Signature of Institution's Signing Official

To upload to the application as a PDF

1. Biosketch of Primary Applicant
2. Biosketch of Partner/Collaborator(s) (if applicable)
3. Static, one-page visual abstract
4. US IRS Letter of Determination showing non-profit status

Be certain to add the signing official to your online application early in the process. This will allow the signing official ample time to review the proposal and compete the approval process.

Please only provide one biosketch for each partner (limit of 5 partners).

REGISTERING ON PROPOSALCENTRAL

If the applicant/candidate does not have an account, the candidate must register on ProposalCentral by clicking the “Need an account?” button and creating a professional profile, including a unique user ID and password. Remember the login and password to access the application at a later time. Applications do not need to be completed in one sitting.

If a professional profile has already been created, the candidate must verify the information for accuracy before submitting a completed application.

When creating the professional profile, candidates will be asked to add a primary institution. This is the institution where the applicant currently holds a position. It is possible that the institution already has a profile on the system. To search for the institution:

- Input the institution name (partial) and click display results
- Information from the institutional profile will automatically populate, including the institutional officer

If your institution is not listed on ProposalCentral, please reach out to the ProposalCentral technical support staff to help with this process.

Candidates have the option of linking their ORCID to their ProposalCentral account. ORCID is a persistent digital identifier that is unique to individual researchers, where they can keep their CV information current and share with other systems. BWF does not require the use of ORCID at this time, but it is highly suggested. Visit orcid.org for additional details. To start an LOI from the professional profile, locate the red “Create New Proposal” button.

CREATING A NEW PROPOSAL

After creating the professional profile and linking it to the appropriate institution, the next step is to begin the application using the following steps:

- Locate the Home tab within ProposalCentral and click the red “Create New Proposal button”
- Use the “Filter by Grantmaker” button to select the Burroughs Wellcome Fund

- Locate Climate + Health Excellence Centers (CHEX) and click the “Apply Now” button
- Verify that an application is being created for the CHEX Program
- Enter the project title and hit “Save”
- Complete the application now or save and revisit later

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

All proposals must be completed through the ProposalCentral site. The following pages and proposal elements must be completed prior to submissions. All fields with a red asterisk in the system are required.

Title Page

Enter the project title to begin the application (limited to 150 characters). Click save to be able to return to the proposal later. Answer additional questions on this page.

Download Templates and Instructions

Here candidates can download the instructions for completing the application.

Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal

This section allows applicants to grant access to others that would like to have access to the proposal such as the collaborators/partners. An applicant may grant three levels of access: View only, Edit (cannot submit), and Administrator (edit and submit). Only registered ProposalCentral users can be given access to the system.

Signing officials will automatically be given administrator access to the proposal.

Applicant Information

In this section, information is pre-populated with information from your professional profile. The following information must be completed in the professional profile (and it will populate in the Applicant/PI section):

- **Institution:** This is the institution where the candidate currently holds a position. It is possible that the institution already has a profile on the system. If the institution does not have a profile, contact technical support for assistance.

- **Contact Information:** Position Title, Department, Address, City, State, Zip, Country, Email, Work, Mobile
- **Degree Information:** Baccalaureate Degree, and Post Baccalaureate Degree (if applicable)
- **Upload a current NIH style Biosketch**

Applicant Demographics

On this page, please complete the demographic questions.

Nominating Institution and Contacts (including Signatory Official)

The institution is where the proposed work will be performed during the award and the institution where the Principal Investigator holds an appointment. The institution for the proposal may not be changed.

Applications will need to be approved by an official responsible for sponsored programs, generally from the institution’s grants and contract’s office, office of research, or sponsored program’s office at a degree-granting institution; at other non-profits in the US and Canada, this is typically the executive director. The institutional or signing official should be added in this section. An email will be generated to the institutional officer/signing official notifying that an application is in progress. The institutional/signing official will need to certify your eligibility for the award, that the institution approves the application submission, and that the institution is eligible to receive the award.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to follow up with the signing official with instructions. The proposal may NOT be submitted without the signature of the signing official. By adding the official to the application, you are granting access to the application.

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION – CONTINUED

Partners

Up to five collaborators may be added to the proposal. Add the collaborator's contact information with the role of "Collaborator." An NIH style Biosketch must be added for each collaborator.

Five Critical Questions

Describe your proposed work and its intended impact by answering the five questions on this page.

1. What theme(s) connecting scholarship and practice in climate and in health are at the center of your proposed Center of Excellence?
2. How will you structure/organize your Climate + Health Center of Excellence?
3. How will work supported by this award change your organization's or organizations' capacity to sustain basic and applied strategies for improving human health challenges associated with climate change?
4. How do you plan to reach across organizational units in your institution and partnering organizations to include scholars and practitioners whose fields have traditionally not been part of science, technology, or health-focused efforts?
5. What about the way you're approaching Climate and Health gives you confidence that your work will make significant practical improvements to the impact of climate change on human health in the next 10-20 years?

Attached Documents

Applicants should provide:

- Applicant and/or Partner Biosketches if not uploaded previously
- Along with answering the five critical questions, please include a static one page visual abstract, built to be legible when printed on 8.5 x 11 paper, illustrating your planned project including basic and applied research goals and the award's required educational and outward-facing elements. This should be uploaded on the Attached Documents page
- US IRS Letter of Determination showing non-profit status

Validate

Applicants must click the "Validate" link to check for any missing required information or files. All missing required information will be listed on the screen. Please correct any missing information before proceeding to the next step.

Sign and Print

The applicant and signing official are required to certify that the application is complete and true. The following is required prior to submission and the application deadline.

- Applicant Signature (required)
- Institutional Signing Official Signature (required)

The institutional signing official should be added to the application in the "Nominating Institution" section. This individual will automatically be given edit privileges to the proposal. The person is required to log in to ProposalCentral, edit the proposal, visit the Sign and Print section, and add their signature prior to the application deadline.

Applications cannot be submitted without both signatures. Signatures must be obtained prior to the application deadline. Extensions will not be given.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Once the application is complete, proceed with the following steps:

- Click “Validate” on the sidebar to see if any errors are identified. All information must be provided prior to application submission.
- If there are no missing items in the application, click on the SUBMIT link on the sidebar. Click the blue SUBMIT button. The application is NOT submitted until you complete this step.
- LOI submissions must occur prior to August 7, 2025 at 3:00 pm (EST). The submit button will disappear after that time. Applicants should receive a confirmation email once your application is submitted. If you do not receive this email, please reach out to BWF.

Proposals will not be accepted after 3:00 pm Eastern Time on August 7, 2025. **Plan to submit your application well in advance of the grant deadline to allow adequate time for signatory official approval and to troubleshoot any issues.** No exceptions will be granted for missing documents or signatures. Only grant proposals submitted through ProposalCentral will be accepted.

After the deadline, applicants with incomplete proposals and those not adhering to instructions will be disqualified without prior notice. Do not include a cover letter or supplemental materials. If extra materials are included, the application will be rejected out of fairness to all applicants.

Questions?

You can find additional information on Climate + Health Excellence Centers grants [here](#).

Questions should be directed in advance to BWF program staff by contacting:

Victoria McGovern, Ph.D., Senior Program Officer
vmcgovern@bwfund.org

Darcy Lewandowski, Program Associate
dlewandowski@bwfund.org

Technical questions regarding use of the ProposalCentral system should be directed to:

ProposalCentral Support

1-800-875-2562

(8:30am to 5:00 pm ET M-F, except holidays)

pcsupport@altum.com