Center for
CLIMATE, HEALTH
AND EQUITY
AN INITIATIVE OF THE
AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Affiliate Climate Forward Mini Grant Program
Request for Proposals

Background & Purpose

APHA's Center for Climate, Health and Equity, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is pleased to announce *Climate Forward*, a new mini-grant program designed to strengthen state and local climate action and advance equitable climate solutions that address the health impacts of climate change.

The Center has a strong track record of engaging APHA Affiliates and building public health capacity to advance climate action. From 2023–2025, through the Cities for Smart Surfaces initiative, APHA partnered with six Affiliates to promote smart surfaces as a public health strategy to reduce extreme heat and flooding impacts. Through educational resources, workshops, and peer-to-peer learning, the Center supported Affiliates in raising awareness of the health and equity benefits of smart surfaces, informing local policy, and advancing regional projects. The Center also works to strengthen the public health workforce through its partnership with ecoAmerica's Climate for Health, co-developing and delivering trainings on *BRACE: A Public Health Model for Climate Action* and *Extreme Heat & Health: Strategies for Prevention and Action*. These efforts equip public health professionals with the knowledge and tools to identify climate-related health risks, communicate effectively, build partnerships, and implement evidence-based interventions.

Building on this work, *Climate Forward* will support APHA Affiliates in advancing climate and health priorities within their states and communities. The program will offer two levels of funding to accommodate Affiliates' varying levels of capacity, experience, and readiness for climate action. Through capacity building, partnership development, and project implementation, the mini-grants will help Affiliates engage stakeholders, strengthen collaboration, and advance locally relevant strategies that promote climate resilience, health equity, and healthier communities.

Eligibility

We invite any APHA-Affiliated State and Regional Public Health Association (Affiliate) to apply for this opportunity.

Award Information

We anticipate supporting up to seven Affiliates and selecting grantees by early December. Each Affiliate can apply for **one** of the two levels of support. Only one application per Affiliate can be submitted and will be reviewed. The grant period will run from **December 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027**.

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In addition to your proposal and budget narrative, each level of funding has **required activities** you will participate in to further APHA's national climate and health efforts (see table below for details). Throughout the grant period, grantees will also have opportunities to participate in optional, but encouraged, APHA-led activities that support the Climate Center's goals. We recommend Level 1 funding for Affiliates that are building capacity and just beginning their climate and health work, and Level 2 funding for Affiliates that have established partnerships and are ready to move into implementation. View and download the proposal guidelines to use.

Level 1 Funding is up to $5,000. We seek projects that increase awareness and understanding of the connections between climate, health, and equity. Activities could include hosting a webinar, community event, educational session, or other outreach effort that engages public health professionals, partners, or community members. Collaborations with state and/or local health departments are especially encouraged. For Level 1 funding, applicants are required to complete Activity #1 (see table below for details).

Level 2 Funding is up to $10,000. We seek projects that build and strengthen partnerships to advance equitable climate and health solutions. Projects should involve identified partners—such as health departments, healthcare systems, community-based organizations, or cross-sector partners—and focus on implementing or advancing specific climate mitigation and/or adaptation strategies that improve health and equity. Partnerships with state and/or local health departments are especially encouraged. For Level 2 funding, applicants are required to complete Activity #1 and choose either Activity #2 or Activity #3 (see table below for details).

Required Activities for	**Level 1 Funding**	**Level 2 Funding**
Activity #1 Take the BRACE training. You can either attend the live virtual training planned for early next year or complete the on-demand training on your own. Learn more about BRACE.	☐	☐
Activity #2 Host the Extreme Heat and Health training. In partnership with ecoAmerica, we have developed a comprehensive facilitator guide that you can use to host the extreme heat and health training in your jurisdiction. Learn more about the heat training. **OR** **Activity #3 Participate in Heat Awareness Week.** Using the toolkit, you will apply for a Governor's Proclamation, engage community partners, and host at least one Heat Week event (e.g., hosting the extreme heat training).		☐

Projected Timeline (subject to change)
Oct. 22: APHA announces subgrantee award opportunity.
Nov. 20: Application closes

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Dec. 4: APHA provides notice of Awards to Affiliates
Jan 2027: Climate Forward Grantee Kick-off meeting
TBD: Mid-point grantee meeting
Mid-late July: Final report due to APHA

Reporting Requirements
At the end of the grant period, all grantees will submit a final report to APHA in mid-late July.

APHA Contact
For questions, email Gill Capper, gillian.capper@apha.org.

Deadline to Apply
Submit your application by **November 20, 2026 4 pm ET. APPLY HERE**