

NIH Environmental Justice Scholars Program

Liam O'Fallon & Jessica Au

NIH Environmental Justice Initiative

Informational Webinar

September 13, 2024, 11am-12pm ET

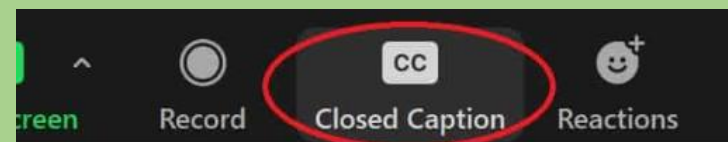


AGENDA

1. Background
2. Program Overview
3. Scholar Eligibility
4. Scholar Activities
5. Potential Project Topics
6. Application Components
7. Timeline
8. Frequently Asked Questions
9. Questions and Answers

REMINDERS

- Today's webinar will be recorded and posted on the EJ Scholars webpage.
- Closed captioning is available and can be enabled at the bottom of your screen.



- Please submit your questions using the Q&A box.
 - Use “thumbs up” symbol to indicate your interest in a question that has been asked.

Background: Environmental Health Disparities & Environmental Justice

Environmental justice: “the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other Federal activities that affect human health and the environment” (source: [environmentaljustice.gov](https://www.environmentaljustice.gov)).



Environmental Health Disparities Research

Highlights underlying inequities related to environmental exposures and health outcomes



Environmental Justice Action

Identifies strategies and the means for addressing these inequities including regulatory enforcement or policy change

The focus of EJ action is on the causes of EHD

Background: Executive Order 14096

- Better protect overburdened communities from pollution and environmental harms
- Strengthen engagement with communities and mobilize federal agencies to confront existing and legacy barriers and injustices
- Promote the latest science, data, and research, including on cumulative impacts
- Honor and build on the foundation of ongoing environmental justice work
- Check out the QR code on the right.

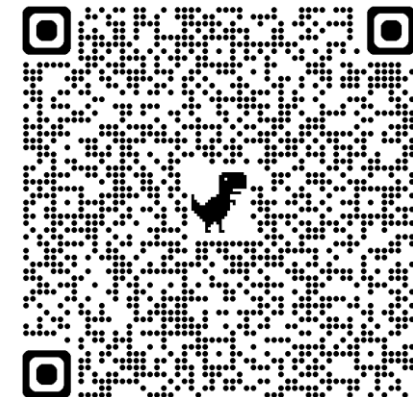
THE WHITE HOUSE



APRIL 21, 2023

FACT SHEET: President Biden Signs Executive Order to Revitalize Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All

 BRIEFING ROOM  STATEMENTS AND RELEASES



Background: NIH Environmental Justice Initiative

EJ Initiative Leaders and Co-Leaders

Executive Order 14096 - Secretary Becerra's Request:

Coordinate across NIH to assist OEJ in identifying specific resources to advance Environmental Justice. Implement three strategic and transformative EJ actions:



Trevor Archer, NIEHS
NIH EJ Initiative Lead



Jessica Au
NIEHS



Sharon Beard
NIEHS
EJ Training Lead



Gabriel Lai
NIMHD



Deborah Linares
NIMHD
EHD Centers Lead



Liam O'Fallon
NIEHS
EJ Scholars Lead



Cyrena Silvera
NIEHS



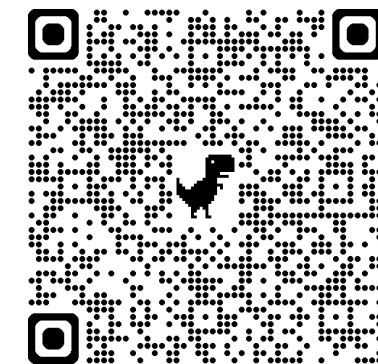
Beverley Xaviera Watkins
NIH/OD
EJ Training Subgroup
Lead

Background: EJ Scholars Program

Participating Institutes, Centers, and Offices (ICOs) (not exhaustive)

- All of Us (AoU)
- Fogarty International Center (FIC)
- National Institute on Aging (NIA)
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)
- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
- National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)
- Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR)
- Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS)

**ICO interest
statements:**



Overview: EJ Scholars Program

The EJ Scholars Program will bring EJ expertise, knowledge, and skills from research scholars, academics, public health and health care professionals, and EJ leaders from community-based organizations to NIH to work with staff members at various NIH ICOs.

Program Goals:

- **Build NIH capacity** to advance EJ-related research, programs, and/or other NIH/ICO projects
- **Increase staff and community awareness** and skills to address EJ issues
- **Grow and strengthen NIH's network** of EJ resource experts
- **Contribute to the NIH's goals** to support underserved and under resourced communities

This program is not a postdoctoral training program and is not intended for Scholars to pursue their own research at NIH.

Scholar Eligibility

- Environmental Justice leaders from academic, nonprofit, or private sectors are eligible to apply.
 - Mid-career to senior-level candidates desired
 - International candidates are eligible
- Strong publication record in environmental justice and related health sciences
 - May include gray/grey literature, such as infographics, podcasts, curriculum, policy statements, or training materials.
- Candidates do not need to have an NIH funding record.
- U.S. citizenship is not required.

Program Goals:

1. **Build NIH capacity** to advance EJ-related research, programs, and/or other NIH/ICO projects
2. **Increase staff and community awareness and skills** to address EJ issues
3. Grow and strengthen NIH's **network of EJ resource experts**
4. **Contribute to the NIH's goals** to support underserved and under resourced communities

Scholar Eligibility (continued)

The program is open to EJ leaders from the following groups:

- Academic and research institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority Serving Institutions
- Community, advocacy, charitable, and faith-based organizations
- Health care and public health organizations
- Tribal, state and local government offices

Scholars must have demonstrated expertise in EJ areas that may include:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Behavioral and social sciences research• Community engagement and partnerships• Community organizing• Community-led and Tribal-led research/community science• Data mapping/visualization• Disaster response and research | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental exposure and risk assessment• Intervention strategies• Traditional ecological knowledge/Indigenous knowledge• Community health work and training• Policy development and engagement• Translational research | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation Science• Workforce training and development• Women's health research• Inclusive health education and research• Migrant/immigrant health and research• Communication research• Youth EJ Leadership training |
|--|--|---|

Scholar Activities

- Scholars will be paired with one or more ICOs based on Scholar interest and ICO needs.
- **Scholars are expected to contribute approximately 25% of their time for up to 10 months to the program** - depending on the Scholar's agreement with their host ICO(s),
- Scholars are expected to work virtually, unless otherwise agreed upon with their ICO.
- Scholars will support their host ICO's EJ efforts on a range of activities that may fall within the following areas:

Education & Training

- Host internal and external seminars
- Develop workshops and training courses/modules
- Inform environmental health and EJ working groups

Public Engagement

- Develop infographics and other gray literature material
- Present at conferences
- Write journal articles
- Write opinion pieces, commentaries, and blog posts
- Speak at NIH-wide and ICO-specific webinars

Data Collection, Analysis, & Utilization

- Establish or inform dataset workbooks and analytical tools
- Conduct portfolio analyses
- Write white papers and reports
- Write manuscripts
- Provide consultations

Potential Topic Areas

Depending on ICO needs, Scholars may support projects related to the following areas:

- Climate change and climate justice
- Diet/nutrition and food justice
- Ecoanxiety and other mental health risks
- Exposome exposures
- Global health
- Implementation science
- Infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases
- Maternal and child health, pregnancy outcomes
- Musculoskeletal and skin diseases
- Older adult health and intergenerational health impacts
- Participatory and community-engaged research approaches
- Social determinants of health
- Urbanization and industrialization



Application Components



- **Cover letter**

- Interest in being an EJ Scholar
- Which NIH ICO(s) you would like to work with
- What you would like to accomplish during your time as an EJ Scholar (vision)
- How your skills, experience, and expertise would help build NIH EJ capacity and support NIH/ICO's mission
- Proposed work schedule (time period/hours)
- Financial or nonfinancial resources you would need to have a successful experience (e.g., stipend amount, data, software, facility access)

- **Resume/CV** (no page limit)

Application Components (continued)



- **Biosketch**

- Compliments CV and describes EJ-related work
- Includes information requested in the application directions document, such as: publication list, talks/presentations, EJ outreach work, grant support and sources, and other contributions to the advancement of EJ

- **Two reference letters**

- Shows your ability to share knowledge and build capacity, and your ability to collaborate across disciplines and areas of expertise
- Brief description of your work with the referred on EJ-related topics

Application package

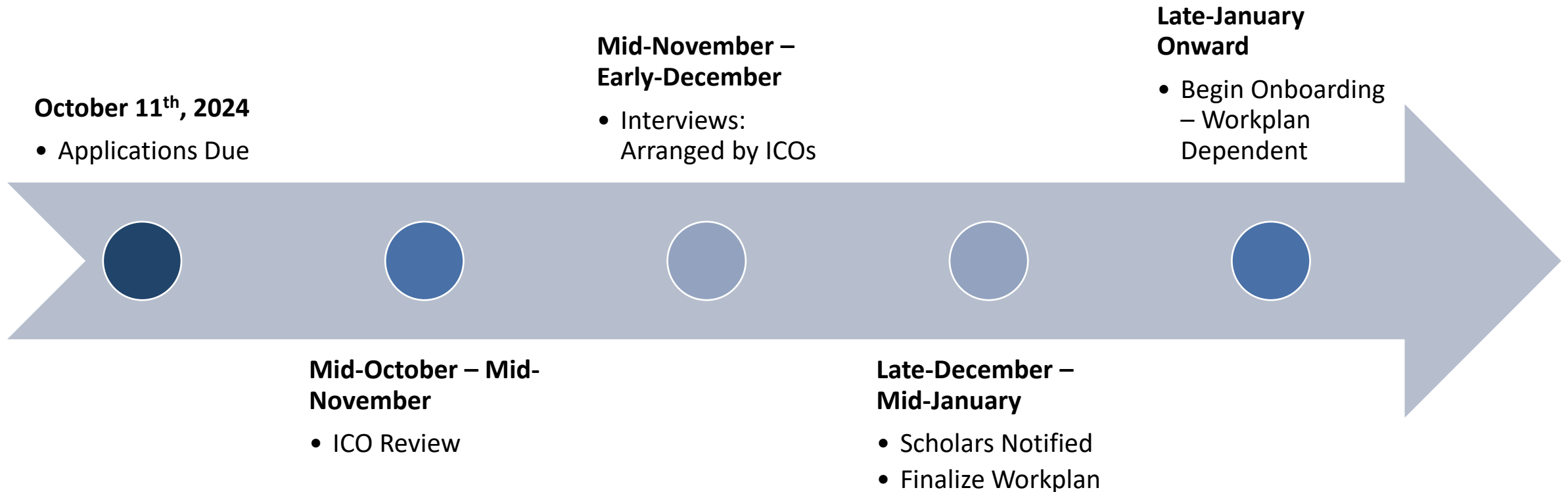
Due date: October 11, 2024
by 11:59 p.m. EDT

Submit to:
ejscholars@nih.gov

Subject line:
“Application Package - Your last name, your first name”

“Reference Letter – Your last name, your first name”

Anticipated Timeline



Frequently Asked Questions

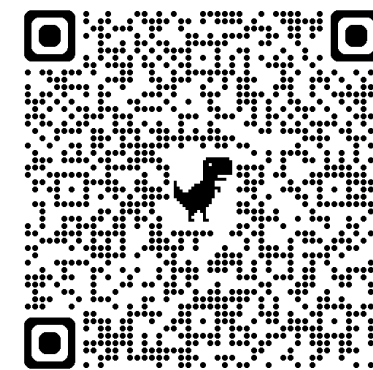
- **Am I eligible?**

- Please review the eligibility criteria written in the application instructions. You can scan the QR code on the right.
- Applicants should have demonstrated experience in EJ-related research, outreach, training, publications, and/or other contributions and accomplishments.
- Applicants should be able to describe how their skills, experiences, and expertise can build NIH EJ capacity and contribute to NIH or the ICO of interest's mission. Keep program goals in mind.

- **Are advanced degree students eligible for the program?**

- We are looking for mid-career to senior-level candidates to help us build our capacities in EJ. If you have extensive experience, skills, and expertise in environmental justice-related topics acquired prior to or during your advanced degree program, please indicate that in your application package.

Application Instructions:



Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

- **Can the stipend be used to “buy-out” scholars’ time at their institution?**
 - The stipend, if approved, would be sent directly to the Scholar. We ask that you discuss the program arrangement and address any regulations with your institution to ensure you have their support prior to applying.
- **Can the stipend be used for professional development?**
 - The stipend is not intended to be put towards professional development (PD) funds, but rather to compensate Scholars for their time and effort. PD should not be provided as justification for a stipend.
- **If I request a stipend, does that impact the favorability of my application?**
 - No, requesting a stipend will not adversely impact your application.

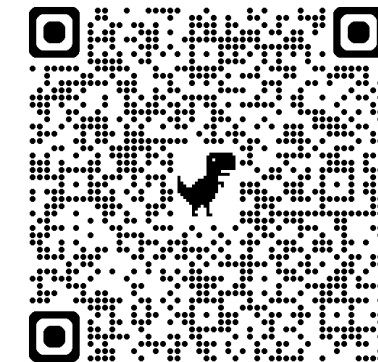
Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

- **What is the time commitment and start/end dates of the program?**
 - The time commitment and start/end dates depends on Scholars' arrangements with their ICO after finalists are notified. Work with ICOs could start as early as January 2025 and last up to 10 months (including summer months). ICOs may be flexible depending on Scholars' schedules.
 - There may also be EJ Scholars Program events and activities (e.g., cohort meetings, events, etc.) that Scholars will be expected to participate in.
- **Can Scholars use program time, equipment, or facilities to work on their own independent research/work?**
 - No, Scholars should not be working on their own research or work during their time as a scholar or using government equipment or facilities.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

- **Where can I learn more about ICO interests and possible projects?**
 - Please review the ICO interest statements. You can scan the QR code on the right.
- **Will participating in the EJ Scholars Program lead to a permanent position at the NIH?**
 - That is not the intent of the program. However, there is always a possibility that a Scholar may encounter job opportunities at the NIH through the network that they build in the program.
- **How might this program benefit me and the other scholars?**
 - We see it as an opportunity to build a cohort of scholars that will continue to interact with one another during and after the experience. It is also an opportunity to engage with various ICO representatives.

**ICO interest
statements:**



Q&A



- Please ask your questions using the Q&A box at the bottom of your screen.
- Please reach out to EJScholars@nih.gov if you have any additional questions after the presentation.

EJ Scholars Team

- Juliette McClendon (NIMH)
- Rhonda Moore (AoU)
- Sydney O'Connor (OBSSR)
- Isaah Vincent (NIAMS)
- Jenna Norton (NIDDK)
- Emerald Nguyen (NIA)
- Laverne Brown (ODS)
- Leigh Willis (NINR)
- Hristina Denic-Roberts (NINR)
- Shalanda Bynum (NINR)
- Lillian Shum (NIDCR)
- Erica Spotts (OBSSR)
- Sekai Chideya-Chihota (NCCIH)
- Miya Whitaker (NIAAA)
- Tiffany Bowen (NIEHS)
- Gwen Collman (NIEHS)
- Katrina Goddard (NCI)
- Dalana Johnson (NCI)
- Randy Capps (NICHD)
- Meredith Temple O'Conner (NCATS)
- Rene Sterling (NHGRI)
- Lawrence Fine (NHLBI)

Thank you for your participation!

Liam O'Fallon and Jessica Au

**On behalf of the NIH Environmental Justice Scholars
Program Team**

EJScholars@nih.gov

