



UNH Sustainability Institute

Sustainability Fellowship **Climate Change & Mental Health Fellow** Durham, NH or Burlington, VT

While public understanding of the impacts of climate change on human health is poor across the United States, many organizations have begun working to raise awareness of what will likely become the human health challenge of the 21st century. In recent years, information has begun moving from the academic community into the general public discourse. Within that broad push, mental health has received little attention. The focus of this project is to support a nascent effort to address this challenge. The work will focus on New Hampshire, but will be designed to be readily applied to other New England states and beyond.

Activities will include the following:

- Review initial documents and materials on the expected impacts of climate change on mental health.
- Literature search to identify additional material.
- Establish an organizing framework for concisely presenting key concepts and topics to a lay audience.
- Create short, concise summaries of the overall topic and of key subtopics suitable for the general public.
- Develop concise, straightforward framing messages that can be effectively used within policy advocacy and call-to-action efforts.
- Develop compelling infographics summarizing key ideas and data.
- Assist in identifying medical and public health leaders with pertinent expertise, and assist the project in establishing strong working relationships with these individuals.

This project provides an excellent opportunity to be part of an essential and powerful piece of the dialog about climate change. The work will be part of a lasting and direct contribution to the push for significant legislative action tied to climate change in New Hampshire. It will offer insight into intersections between community engagement, policy development, and persuasive communications. Based on relationships that are already in place with organizations in other states, the project will also certainly influence work in other New England communities. Finally, the project will provide connection into a growing network of health care and public health professionals who are seeking to accelerate state legislation that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Location: Durham NH (UNHSI) or Burlington VT (SolaVida)

Time commitment: 40 hours per week, June 5-August 18, 2017

Compensation: \$6000 stipend

Desired Qualifications:

- Demonstrated ability to synthesize and distill scientific information for a lay audience.
- Demonstrated ability and comfort in synthesizing information on mental health.
- Passion for working on climate change related initiatives.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Previous experience with social advocacy organizations or projects.
- Experience in graphic design and multi-media preferred but not required.

UNHSI Sustainability program eligibility:

Graduate students, exceptional undergraduate students, and recent graduates are eligible. We will encourage, but not require, an academic sponsor or reference for each fellow, and where possible we will ask that course credits are awarded.

Supervision, Training, Mentoring and Evaluation

This fellow will receive supervision from Dan Quinlan (Founder of SolaVida, a non-profit focused on advocacy for intelligent and effective climate change policy), as well as mentoring and extensive professional development offerings from UNHSI.

Fellows will be expected to participate in three MANDATORY events:

- A three-day, two-night orientation in Durham, NH, May 31st- June 2nd. Lodging and food are provided; Fellows are responsible for any associated travel costs.
- Midterm project presentations to UNHSI staff, faculty and relevant project partners (can be done remotely).
- A summative evaluation and feedback session at the end of their placement.

Apply by February 17th at www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows