

Background

The Climate Ready Boston program of the City of Boston is seeking Spring and Summer Resilience Fellows/Senior Resilience Fellows. Our team works on behalf of Bostonians to protect their families and neighborhoods from the impacts of climate change and ensure that Boston can thrive in the face of climate change.

Deadlines and Applying

Applications for Spring Fellows/Senior Fellows are due by January 15th and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Applications for Summer Fellows/Senior Fellows are due by March 15th and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. In order to apply, please review the project list below and submit 2-3 paragraphs on why you are interested in the role, along with a 1-2 page resume, to Sanjay Seth, Climate Resilience Program Manager (sanjay.seth@boston.gov).

Commitment

Fellows/Senior Fellows will be core members of the Climate Ready team and tasked with producing valuable short-term deliverables and presenting those deliverables to senior City officials, which are discussed in more detail below. Each Fellow/Senior Fellow will be assigned to a member of the Climate Ready team and have regular feedback, team meetings, and professional development opportunities. Spring Fellows/Senior Fellows will be expected to commit at least 15 hours per week for 8-10 weeks. Summer Fellows/Senior Fellows will be expected to commit at least 25 hours per week for 8-10 weeks. All positions are remote.

Compensation

For those who can or have already secured funding through your educational institution to support a fellowship or through a work-study program, please note that in your response. Additionally, for candidates who would consider a fellowship as part of fulfilling a course requirement (e.g. practicum, co-op), please also note that in your application. We have a limited amount of funding available for fellowships, but will work to ensure that all fellows are fairly compensated.

Candidate Evaluation

Qualifications, Fellow:

- 1-4 years of experience
- Current undergraduate or graduate student or recent graduate
- Demonstrated interest in climate change, sustainability, community engagement

Qualifications, Senior Fellow:

- 5+ years experience
- Current graduate (e.g. MPP, MPA, JD, MUP, MBA, MPH) or PhD student or recent graduate
- Demonstrated professional interest in climate change, adaptation, resilience, engagement, governance, finance, implementation

Candidates with second language proficiency, significant technical skills, City government experience, or with significant lived or professional experience with Boston communities are at an advantage.

Current Fellowship Opportunities with the Climate Ready Team

Heat Resiliency

In February 2021, the City will launch a Citywide heat resiliency study, focusing on environmental justice communities that experience disproportionate impacts and have significant vulnerabilities to extreme heat. Under day-to-day direction from the Lead Coordinator of the study, the Fellow will have opportunities to learn more about heat resilience in Boston, develop best practices for equitable public engagement, and provide general support as directed to execute the project objectives. This role is particularly appropriate for a Fellow. Candidates with a background in public health will be at an advantage. Candidates with a background in public health will be at an advantage.

The Heat Resilience Fellow will work closely with the lead coordinator to support stakeholder engagement and communications during the planning process. The Heat Resilience Fellow will specifically support the following:

Digital engagement

- Support the development of messaging and administration of messaging tools
- Manage the Heat Resilience Plan project webpage to keep project information updated
- Coordinate updates and messaging with the department Communications team
- Assist coordination of public communications and engagement with related Parks and Recreation Department projects

Youth engagement

- Provide additional support to the City and Consultant teams for the youth design charrette and youth led survey

Coastal Resiliency

In November 2020, the City launched neighborhood coastal resiliency studies, focusing on East Boston and Charlestown, focusing on areas of these neighborhoods that will be the sites of significant coastal flooding through 2070. Under day-to-day direction from the Lead Coordinator of the study, the Fellow will have opportunities to learn more about coastal resiliency in Boston and provide general support as directed to execute the project objectives. This role is particularly appropriate for a Fellow.

The Coastal Resilience Fellow will work closely with the Lead Coordinator to manage community engagement and communications for the planning process. The Fellow will work to build community capacity through planning, develop innovative community engagement strategies and craft accessible resilience messages.

Qualifications

- Knowledge of planning processes
- Community engagement and organizing experience
- Strategic communications engagement

Citywide Resilience Review

Deliverable: A structured review of key plans from City departments and affiliated agencies (e.g. BPDA, BWSC, BPHC, BTM, et al) to document the Citywide resiliency strategy in a filterable Excel-based list. The project will document any commitments made across the City that can be determined to have a resiliency component or impact, noting whether this has already been executed or is awaiting funding.

The goal will be to be able to better identify all climate resiliency commitments across the City, with a focus on commitments that may have a resiliency component though are not branded as “resiliency”, in order to identify gaps and opportunities for partnership and integration across City departments and affiliated agencies and commissions. This is an opportunity to learn about implementation of an “all of government” approach to climate change and of how to embed climate resilience and adaptation more deeply into existing City policies and programs.

This role will report directly to the Program Manager and is particularly appropriate for a Senior Fellow. Candidates with legal or policy backgrounds or backgrounds in change management will be at an advantage.

Regional and Federal Resilience Opportunities

Deliverable: A structured review of prior regional climate planning efforts from relevant City, State, and nonprofit organizations that supports a broader conversation around how the City of Boston can continue to engage more deeply in the regional implications of climate adaptation and resilience.

This is an opportunity to learn about metropolitan-scale climate planning and the challenges and opportunities related to collaboration across jurisdictions. This role will also support review of on-going and any new State and Federal grant programs that could support key program objectives, with particular focus on new or amended Federal programs through 2021.

This role will report directly to the Program Manager and is particularly appropriate for a Senior Fellow. Candidates with experience in urban and regional planning or navigating State or Federal grant programs will be at an advantage.

Resilience Education and Audit Review

Deliverable: A review of local, national, and international examples of residential and commercial resilience audits, where City agencies support the identification of on-going resilience deficiencies in buildings across the City and connect building owners to resources to facilitate a kind of “one-stop shop” for resilience improvements to be made in buildings.

The project will include a series of structured interviews with potential partner departments to understand how they have approached this type of engagement and successfully delivered on implementation. The outcomes of this analysis will support the launch of a project in Q2 of 2021 focused on piloting resilience audits and educational campaigns in Boston.

This role will report directly to the Program Manager and is appropriate for a Fellow or a Senior Fellow. Candidates with a background in real estate, procurement, or business will be at an advantage.

Climate Leadership Development

Deliverable: A review of prior and on-going community engagement and leadership development in Boston, with particular focus on the “Greenovate” program of the City’s Environment Department. The fellow will review prior efforts, conduct structured interviews, and develop recommendations for creating additional leadership development opportunities, clearly structured to develop leadership and help residents “level up” with increasing knowledge and responsibility to climate leadership in their neighborhood.

This role will report directly to the Program Manager and is appropriate for a Fellow or a Senior Fellow. Candidates with experience in community organizing will be at an advantage.

Submit a proposal

Note: If you have a proposed project that fits within your current research or interests that you would like to explore with the City that doesn’t fit within the current project list, please feel free to share a short description of the proposed project in your application. We will prioritize applications from those who fit our current needs, but are open to research partnerships and other engagements that are promising but don’t fit neatly into our current project list.