



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

# Faith & Health Faculty Fellowship

## Opportunity

Research shows that engaging religious identity in health care settings improves health outcomes and decreases the margins of health inequities.<sup>1</sup> In recent years, Interfaith America has prioritized support for educators who are both promoting interfaith competency for pre-health students and engaging community partners working to strengthen human wellbeing. This fellowship will identify and support faculty who are well-positioned to share the story of the positive potential of our nation's religious diversity as an asset in health care. **Our Faith & Health Faculty Fellows will design and implement academic and/or narrative projects that engage key partners to advance broader public understanding of the vital promise of engaging religious identities and communities in health settings.**

## Program Overview

We invite faculty from a range of disciplines (including religious and theological studies and pre-health disciplines) to submit compelling proposals that identify effective channels for sharing the positive impact of thoughtful interfaith engagement in health settings. Our Faith and Health Faculty Fellows will gather regularly online and once in person (August 2024) to collaborate around learnings, challenges, resources, and approaches. They will also be featured on the IA website.

The Fellowship program spans January 2024-May 2025, and selected participants will receive a \$4,000 stipend designed to support time devoted to this initiative.

## Eligibility

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<sup>1</sup> See “Leveraging the Power of Religious Diversity in Health Fields” in *The Journal of College and Character* by Carolyn Roncolato [<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/2194587X.2022.2087685>].



- This fellowship opportunity is offered to educators at 2- and 4-year colleges and universities, as well as those teaching in post-baccalaureate contexts, with demonstrated commitment to equipping pre-health students to engage religious identities or communities.
- Educators include faculty (tenured, contingent, adjunct, contract, and part-time) and staff or administrators who teach courses for academic credit.
- We will prioritize proposals that demonstrate the promise of sustainable collaboration between religion and pre-health departments, as well as between campus and community partners.

### Proposal Requirements

- Impactful strategy and clear distribution plan to shape academic and/or public discourse, which may include such elements as these:
  - Incorporation of religious diversity in ongoing research
  - Commitment to shaping the field through leadership in networks, organizations, or conferences
  - Social media plan that highlights anticipated audience
  - Podcast, video, or other public narrative channel with proven distribution potential
- Collaboration across campus units, which may include the following:
  - Academic unit collaboration (e.g., nursing and religious studies or public health and communication, pre-health and general education, etc.)
  - Partnership between academic unit(s) and other campus departments (e.g., health and wellness, career and internship, chapel/spiritual life, etc.)
- Active engagement of at least one community partner, which may include the following:
  - Health systems
  - Faith-based organizations or leaders
  - Community organizations devoted to public health
  - Health departments

### Participation Requirements



- Attend a one-hour virtual orientation session in January 2024.
- Attend four cohort calls throughout the grant period (May 2024, October 2024, January 2025, and May 2025).
- Attend IA's Interfaith Leadership Summit and support a faith and health track of conversations in August 2024. (Expenses covered by IA.)
- Complete a mid-year report in September 2024.
- Submit a final report that captures both quantitative and qualitative evidence of impact.

### Examples

- A religious studies faculty member might work with a pre-health program and the school's communication department to create a series of pieces distributed through an existing relationship at a local news outlet. This fellow might also publish an academic article that highlights a new assessment tool used across the curriculum.
- A divinity school faculty member might work with nursing school faculty and a local health system to identify opportunities for ongoing learning about religious diversity, which could be incorporated in the health system's internal communications plan. The proposal could include promising public conversations, either in person or virtual, as well as student learning that exposes future providers to community leaders in public health.
- A public health faculty member might engage a cohort of peers to coordinate efforts to produce an edited volume on the topic that bridges social sciences and health sciences disciplines and includes models of community engagement that leverage the trust of faith communities to strengthen public health.

The funds, which will be disbursed in two installments (January 2024, and upon completion of exit survey in May 2025), are intended as support for educators' time and energy. The stipend is not intended to be spent on costs related to the project. The grantee is responsible for understanding and navigating their institutional or organizational grant processes. Additionally, those who receive funding may receive a 1099 tax form at the end of the year.



## To Apply

Please complete the application at this link -

Applications are due November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## Racial Equity Commitment

As a part of our commitment to racial equity, Interfaith America, and the staff who steward our grants look to integrate thought partners with diverse racial backgrounds throughout the process of the grant- from creation to outreach, applications, implementation, and feedback. We are intentional about reaching out to new communities and partners and thinking critically about racial diversity in the applicant and acceptance pools.

## Program Timeline

- November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023: The application period closes.
- December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Fellows are notified of their selection.
- January 2024: Fellows attend virtual orientation, and first stipend is processed.
- February – May 2024: Fellows participate in check in calls and one virtual cohort gathering.
- August 2024: Fellows attend IA's Leadership Summit in Chicago.
- September 2024: Fellows provide mid-term report on their projects.
- October 2024 – May 2025: Fellows attend three virtual cohort gatherings.
- May 31, 2025: Final reports are due.

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