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**Seven Communities Receive Grants to Study Projects that Address Health and Climate Change Solutions**

**Fairfax, VA –** The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), in partnership with the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication, today announced grants to seven communities across the United States to study health, health equity and climate change solutions.

These communities, from Anchorage, Alaska to Austin, Texas, have all developed and implemented projects that address the health impacts of climate change, while working to improve health equity. Grantees will assess and learn from their strategies for creating healthier, more resilient communities.

The projects selected represent a range of solutions, including the greening of public spaces, sustainable agricultural, and housing weatherization. A full list of grantees and a short description of their work is provided below.

“The diversity of these projects makes clear that there are a wide range of creative approaches to not only avoid the health harms from climate change, but also improve health and limit climate change,” said Alonzo L. Plough, Ph.D., M.P.H., chief science officer and vice president of Research-Evaluation-Learning at RWJF. “Communities across the United States are reducing their use of fossil fuels, building green infrastructure, and implementing more sustainable agricultural practices and these climate solutions can help build a Culture of Health with immediate and long-term health benefits.”

The funded projects were selected specifically because they focus on health equity and climate change. “While climate change can harm the health of anyone in America, some communities and groups of people are more likely than others to be harmed,” said Dr. Mark Mitchell, a public health and environmental health physician. “Climate change exacerbates health disparities in the most vulnerable communities, including tribal communities, communities of color, and low-income communities. That is why culturally relevant solutions that address health equity are critical to creating climate resilience.”

For more information on health and climate solutions, visit [healthandclimatesolutions.org.](http://healthandclimatesolutions.org/)

**Read more about the seven selected projects:**

**Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium -** Anchorage, AK - This project will evaluate the impact on health outcomes of newly installed portable water/sanitation systems in 69 homes in two rural Alaska Native communities that are currently living without piped water/sanitation—and that are increasingly water-insecure as a result of climate change.

**City of Austin** - Austin, TX - This project will evaluate the heat index and children’s level of physical activity and emotional well-being at various times during the year in tree-shaded and non-tree-shaded parks adjacent to three inner-city elementary schools.

**Covenant Pathways** - Vanderwagen, NM - This project will evaluate regenerative farming practices of Navajo farmers for impact on soil life mass, soil life diversity, and nutrient density of food produced on dryland farms.

**Friends of Trees** - Portland, OR - This project will evaluate the health, social, economic and environmental endpoints of a tree planting program among Asian-Americans in a low-income, multi-ethnic neighborhood in Portland, Oregon.

**Organic Consumers Association** - Finland, MN - This project will evaluate and compare demographics, economics, environment, and health in six regenerative and six conventional agricultural counties in six Midwestern states.

**People United for Sustainable Housing, Inc**. - Buffalo, NY - This project will evaluate the impact of an inner-city, community-based, energy efficiency and weatherization program on household and community resilience, community development (e.g., local procurement and job creation) and health.

**Swinomish Indian Tribal Community** - La Conner, WA - This project will evaluate the efficacy of I-BRACE—an “indigenized” version of CDC’s Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) Framework—which incorporates a model of indigenous values-based data collection, analysis and decision-making into a traditional public health model.

**About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**

For more than 45 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care. We are working alongside others to build a national Culture of Health that provides everyone in America a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. For more information, visit [www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org). Follow the Foundation on Twitter at [www.rwjf.org/twitter](http://www.rwjf.org/twitter) or on Facebook at [www.rwjf.org/facebook](http://www.rwjf.org/facebook).

 **About the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communications**

Since 2007, Mason’s Center for Climate Change Communication has developed and applied social science insights to help society make informed decisions that will stabilize the earth’s life-sustaining climate and prevent further harm from climate change. In 2018, the Center received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to assist with the Health and Climate Solutions grant program. For more information, visit <https://www.climatechangecommunication.org/> or follow us on twitter [@Mason4C](https://twitter.com/Mason4C).