

21-106
Research Associate IV
Social and Behavioral Science Program Analyst

The Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA) at Colorado State University seeks to fill a full-time professional research position for its collaborative research and development as a Cooperative Institute with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) Office of Science and Technology Integration (OSTI) in Silver Spring, MD. **This position is located in a federal facility in Silver Spring, MD and requires the ability to pass a National Agency Check with Inquiries (NACI, federal background check) for building access. Office will be in Silver Spring, MD; however, the option exists to work remotely from your home/office with periodic coordination meetings in Silver Spring.**

Background

The social, behavioral and economic sciences (SBES) play a critical role in connecting the improvements of NOAA's weather, water, climate and space forecast information to the goal of meeting the public's growing forecast needs. Understanding societal needs and decision contexts provides NWS with information to prioritize what type of improvement will yield the greatest economic and societal benefit. Further, the utilization and integration of the SBES within NWS operations will help improve understanding of decision-making needs and support communication of uncertainty and risk information for better decision-making. Finally, the utilization of SBES will assist NWS in better understanding and quantifying the societal and economic benefits NWS' forecasts provide the Nation. The primary goal of this partnership between NWS OSTI and CIRA is focused on providing SBES expertise to OSTI.

Position Summary

As part of this initiative to further expand collaboration with the NWS/OSTI, the individual in this position serves as an analyst, supporting the growth and integration of NWS' SBES with its physical sciences. This individual will work with and support the NWS social science program/portfolio manager, providing SBES knowledge and expertise to inform decisions concerning program planning, and will provide project management support for activities, including the coordination of meetings and minutes associated with the social science program/portfolio, assist in communicating task status and produce monthly status reports highlighting task completion schedules (including schedule variations (if any)), other milestones, and work product deliverables. This position will assist in the development, documentation of, and refinement of NWS SBES needs, gaps and/or requirements, assist in the development of statements of work that address the underlying requirement, ensure SBES research methods are utilized throughout the contract by clarifying project goals, identify research questions, review project deliverables, and assist in the translation of research results in to NWS operations. Further, this position will assist in planning activities in coordination with the NWS portfolios and with NOAA line offices and other federal agencies related to current and future SBES research activities associated with improvements in high-impact weather forecasts and warnings. The individual in this position may be responsible for preparing presentation materials, providing briefings, and generating documentation. This position may involve reviewing and contributing to NOAA transition plans related to risk communication. The individual may be responsible for supporting and responding to SBES-related taskers and ad-hoc inquiries. We are looking for a highly motivated, goal oriented individual, who works well within a team and individually. This position reports to Research Associate IV, but works closely with and supports the federal NWS Social Science Program Manager.

Decision Making Statement

Decision making depends on the scale of each assignment and issues involved; the chosen course of action may need to be selected from many solutions, dependent upon the end user and technological requirements, and may require coordination with other members of the project team to reach a final

decision. Decisions include the assessment of unusual circumstances, variations in approach, and handling of incomplete or conflicting data. Position requires making many decisions concerning such things as the interpreting of considerable amount of data, planning the work, or refining methods and techniques. This independent position involves working in coordination with the NWS Social Science Program Manager to go over progress and next steps. The individual will set priorities that correspond to importance and/or urgency of particular upgrades and other work activities.

Position Responsibilities/Essential Job Duties

Essential Job Duties

Leadership – 15%

- Provide knowledge, guidance, expertise, and consultation on the Social, Behavioral and Economic (SBE) Sciences,
- Serve as an active participant during NWS social science program/portfolio meetings to evolve the SBE sciences within NWS, and in coordination with the NOAA Line Offices and other federal agencies, and
- Present accomplishments to NWS social science program/portfolio and participate in workshops and conferences.

Documentation and Reporting - 20%

- Prepare documentation in collaboration with NWS social science program/portfolio manager,
- Summarize research results for NWS social science program/portfolio and broader community, and
- As needed, document the status of existing projects for the NWS social science program/portfolio manager.
- Prepare presentation materials, provide briefings, and generate documentation,
- Review and contribute to risk communication-related NOAA transition plans, and
- Support and respond to SBES-related taskers and ad-hoc inquiries.

Design, Implementation, and Analysis of User Information 65%

- Work collaboratively with NWS social science program/portfolio members,
- Assist in the development of statements of work that attempt to address the underlying SBE science gap/need identified by the NWS Service Program Teams, National Centers and Regional Offices,
- Review NWS SBE science proposals to clarify project goals and ensure appropriate use of SBE science research methodologies, etc.
- Review project deliverables and assist in the translation of research results to the NWS social science program/portfolio,
- Analyze the results of studies to identify themes in requirements and methods for more efficient information transfer,
- Summarize findings and conclusions (in an agreed to format) to NWS social science program/portfolio members, and
- Determine and facilitate appropriate user engagement strategies to better understand decision making processes.

Required Qualifications

- Ph.D. in relevant field described below plus two (2) years relevant work experience: or
- M.S. in relevant field described below plus two (5) years relevant work experience:
 - Formal education in a relevant field such as cognitive psychology, risk communication, behavioral sciences, decision sciences, geography, and disaster sciences.
- Demonstrated knowledge of risk communication and protective action decision making,

- Demonstrated skill in data analysis and interpretation of qualitative and statistical information.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively communicate research findings (including visual representations of data, highlight videos, slide decks, written reports, etc.).
- Demonstrated ability to manage projects and execute end-to-end processes.
- Ability to pass a National Agency Check with Inquiries (NACI, Tier 1 federal background check), due to the position being located inside a Federal facility;
- Must be legally authorized to work in the United States by the start date. CIRA will not sponsor a visa for this position now nor in the future.

Desired Qualifications

- PhD in the Social, Behavioral and/or Economic Sciences,
 - Human centered design, human-computer interaction, user experience, usability engineering, or equivalent hands-on experience to demonstrate an understanding of usability theory, methods, and practices.

Demonstrated experience in user experience and/or human-computer interaction studies.

- Demonstrated ability to work directly with the user community, partners, and developers to understand user needs, define product vision and road map, and translate user needs for operational use.
- High degree of initiative and excellent communication skills,
- Ability to function well as an effective member of a project team,
- Ability to handle multiple tasks and meet project deadlines, communicate effectively both verbally and in writing, and a willingness to learn new skills for professional growth within the position,
- Experience supporting and maintaining large projects,
- Experience with issue tracking, and revision control,
- Experience with databases,
- Experience troubleshooting complicated issues,
- Experience supporting and maintaining an operational system,
- Must be reliable, self-motivated, and comfortable working in an agile and creative team environment,
- Ability to work effectively and efficiently as part of a team all working remotely
- Experience coordinating projects or research between multiple groups or agencies,
- Knowledge of operational meteorology, such as NWS operations, AWIPS, and NWS users and partners, and
- Knowledge of and experience with the weather, water and climate enterprise.
- Demonstrated experience with end-to-end product research and design.

Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled; however, to ensure full consideration applications should be submitted by 11:59pm, Monday, March 29, 2021. Apply electronically by clicking “Apply to this Job” at the following website: [LINK](#) .References will not be contacted without prior notification of candidates. Please be sure to address the required and preferred qualifications in the cover letter, as related to your professional experience.