Position Summary:
The Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA) at Colorado State University (CSU) seeks a highly motivated, goal-oriented individual, who works well within a team and individually, to fill a full-time social science research and evaluation position for its collaborative research and development with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) Office of Science and Technology Integration (OSTI) in Silver Spring, MD.

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 and decision making. 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 use 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 use 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.

As part of this initiative to further expand collaboration with the NWS/OSTI, the individual in this position will report to the CIRA Project PI and work closely with and support the federal NWS Social Science Program Director, and serve as an analyst and support the growth and integration of NWS’ SBES with its physical sciences. Specifically, the individual in this position will conduct SBES research and provide 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, 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. They also will assist in the development, documentation of, and refinement of NWS SBES needs, gaps and/or requirements, assist evaluating the NWS products and services, and 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, and may be responsible for supporting and responding to SBES-related taskers and ad-hoc inquiries.

This position requires a NOAA Common Access Card (CAC) ID badge for computer access and therefore is open ONLY to citizens of the United States and lawful permanent residents in possession of a physical USCIS “Green Card.” 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) Tier 1 federal background check for building access. The office will be in Silver Spring; however, the option exists to work remotely from a home/office. Periodic, in-person coordination meetings in Silver Spring and other locations will be required, and travel to attend those meetings will be paid by the project. The individual in this position will be an employee of CIRA-CSU. This position will be classified Research Associate II or III according to the credentials of the finalist selected for hire as follows:

- For position title Research Associate II: Bachelor’s Degree in a relevant social or behavioral science or interdisciplinary field such as, but not limited to evaluation, risk communication, decision science, psychology, sociology, or related field PLUS 3-4 years of experience managing research projects –OR– Master’s Degree in a relevant social or behavioral science or interdisciplinary field such as, but not limited to evaluation, risk communication, decision science, psychology, sociology, or related field PLUS up to 2 years of experience managing research projects

- For position title Research Associate III: Bachelor’s Degree in a relevant social or behavioral science or interdisciplinary field such as, but not limited to evaluation, risk communication, decision science, psychology, sociology, or related field PLUS 5 years of experience managing research and evaluation projects –OR– Master’s Degree n a relevant social or behavioral science or interdisciplinary field such as,
but not limited to evaluation, risk communication, decision science, psychology, sociology, or related field
PLUS 2 years of experience managing research and evaluation projects –OR- Ph.D. in a relevant social or
behavioral science or interdisciplinary field such as, but not limited to evaluation, risk communication,
decision science, psychology, sociology, or related field.

Decision Making:
Decision making will depend upon 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 will include
the assessment of unusual circumstances, variations in approach, and handling of incomplete or conflicting data.
The individual in this position will make many decisions including such things as interpreting considerable
amounts of data, planning work, and/or refining methods and techniques, and they will work in coordination with
the NWS Social Science Program Director to go over progress and next steps. The individual in this position will
set priorities that will correspond to importance and/or urgency of particular upgrades and other work activities.

Essential Job Duties:
SBES Research Design, Implementation, and Analysis - 65%
• Work collaboratively with NWS Social Science Program members;
• Conduct relevant literature reviews to ensure the SBES research stays up to date with the latest domain
knowledge and methods in the field;
• Lead and collaborate on developing qualitative (e.g., interview protocols) and quantitative (e.g., surveys)
data collection instruments (and associated data management and archival plans) to understand the impacts
of the NWS product and services.

Documentation and Reporting - 20%
• As needed, document the status of existing projects for the NWS Social Science Program Director;
• Prepare presentation materials, provide briefings, and generate documentation;
• Support and respond to SBES-related taskers and ad-hoc inquiries;
• Present results and findings to internal audiences (e.g., coworkers, Leadership, etc.) and/or external
audiences at workshops and professional meetings and conferences (e.g., the American Meteorological
Society, American Evaluation Association, and local, regional, or national conferences);
• Collaborate in writing research reports and journal articles.

Leadership – 15%
• Provide knowledge, guidance, expertise, and consultation on the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences
(SBES);
• Serve as an active participant during NWS Social Science Program meetings to evolve the SBES within
NWS, and in coordination with the NOAA Line Offices and other federal agencies.

Required Qualifications
In your cover letter, please specifically address each requirement as relates to your experience. A cover letter that
fails to address the required qualifications for this position may not be considered further after review by the search
committee.
• For position title Research Associate II: Bachelor’s Degree in a relevant social or behavioral science or
interdisciplinary field such as, but not limited to evaluation, risk communication, decision science,
psychology, sociology, or related field PLUS 3-4 years of experience managing research projects –OR–
Master’s Degree in a relevant social or behavioral science or interdisciplinary field such as, but not limited
to evaluation, risk communication, decision science, psychology, sociology, or related field
PLUS up to 2
years of experience managing research projects;
• For position title Research Associate III: Bachelor’s Degree in a relevant social or behavioral science or
interdisciplinary field such as, but not limited to evaluation, risk communication, decision science,
psychology, sociology, or related field PLUS 5 years of experience managing research and evaluation
projects –OR– Master’s Degree in a relevant social or behavioral science or interdisciplinary field such as,
but not limited to evaluation, risk communication, decision science, psychology, sociology, or related field
PLUS 2 years of experience managing research and evaluation projects –OR- Ph.D. in a relevant social or
behavioral science or interdisciplinary field such as, but not limited to evaluation, risk communication, decision science, psychology, sociology, or related field;

- Experience conducting interviews, focus groups, or surveys;
- Experience analyzing qualitative and quantitative data;
- Demonstrated experience communicating research findings (including visual representations of data, highlight videos, slide decks, and/or written reports, etc.) within field of expertise and across disciplinary boundaries;
- Experience working independently and as part of an interdisciplinary research team;
- Experience handling multiple projects while meeting project deadlines;
- Must be a citizen of the United States or Lawful Permanent Resident with a physical USCIS “Green Card.”
- Ability to pass a National Agency Check with Inquiries (NACI) federal background check and receive a NOAA Common Access Card (CAC) ID badge. CIRA will not sponsor a visa for this position now nor in the future.

Preferred Qualifications:
In your cover letter, please specifically address the applicable preferred qualifications for this position. A cover letter that fails to address the preferred qualifications for this position may not be considered further after review by the search committee.

- Experience in applied research and/or evaluation with skills in assessing program effectiveness and social network analysis, preferably in environmental sciences;
- Knowledge of and experience with the weather, water, and climate enterprise;
- Experience learning new skills (e.g., research methods, analysis techniques) and perspectives outside of one’s disciplinary training and field.

Annual Salary Range: Commensurate with experience and qualifications as follows:

- Research Associate II: $63,900 - $81,100
- Research Associate III: $72,800 - $93,000

Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion:
Reflecting departmental and institutional values, candidates are expected to have the ability to advance the Department's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Application Deadline:
Applications will be accepted until the position is filled; however, to ensure full consideration applications should be submitted by 11:59 PM MT on Sunday, September 1, 2024. For full position announcement and to apply, please click “Apply to this Job” at the following website: https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/148337. Applications must be submitted via online portal. We will not accept materials sent via email or other mode. NOTE: In your cover letter, please specifically address the required and preferred qualifications of this position. A cover letter that fails to address the qualifications of this position may not be further considered after review by the search committee. Likewise, an online application with a generic cover letter or missing a cover letter, and/or an application that does not include current/correct reference contact information may not be further considered after review by the search committee.