

Opportunity Title: EPA Rural and Agriculture Policy Fellow

Opportunity Reference Code: EPA-OA-OARA-2024-01

Organization U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Reference Code EPA-OA-OARA-2024-01

How to Apply *To submit your application, scroll to the bottom of this opportunity and click **APPLY**.*

A complete application consists of:

- An application
- Transcript(s) – For this opportunity, an unofficial transcript or copy of the student academic records printed by the applicant or by academic advisors from internal institution systems may be submitted. Click [here](#) for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- Two educational or professional recommendations

All documents must be in English or include an official English translation.

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Application Deadline 2/14/2025 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

Description ***Applications may be reviewed on a rolling-basis and this posting could close before the deadline.** Click [here](#) for information about the selection process.

EPA Office/Lab and Location: A research opportunity is available at the Environmental Protection Agency within the Office of Agriculture and Rural Affairs in the Office of the Administrator, located in Washington, D.C. The Office of Agriculture and Rural Affairs was recently established in March of 2024.

The new office will expand on the work of the national EPA Ag Advisor and increase coordination with a network of existing agriculture policy advisors located in all ten EPA regional offices across the country.

The US Environmental Protection Agency's Mission is to protect human health and the environment. The Office of Agriculture and Rural affairs, in close coordination with EPA's program offices and regions, will forge practical, science-based solutions that protect the environment while ensuring a vibrant and productive agricultural system. This new office will facilitate closer coordination with relevant federal and state partners such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and state departments of agriculture. The office will also house EPA's existing Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC). The Committee provides independent policy recommendations to Administrator Regan on a range of policies that impact agriculture and rural communities.

This Office was also created to collaborate with small, underserved towns and rural communities that are seeking federal investments, through Rural Partners Network and other mechanisms. This research position will help support the development and amplification of a rural framework within EPA and assist on various agricultural policy initiatives as needed.



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Research Project: This project will primarily involve research and scientifically grounded product development of an EPA Rural strategy or framework. This position will require research into rural policy; assessment of EPA policies to identify barriers and opportunities; and review of complimentary other federal agencies' program to find synergies.

Additionally, the project may also require policy research on agricultural topics at the nexus of EPA's environmental statutes, such as the Clean Water Act (CWA), Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), Clean Air Act (CAA), etc.

The participant will have the opportunity to gain experience and knowledge in the research area of rural, agricultural, and environmental policy, program evaluation, policy development, and effectiveness of outreach.

Learning Objectives: Under the guidance of a mentor, the research participant will have the opportunity to:

- Aid EPA staff in scoping and developing a rural strategy or framework.
- Learn about emerging and key issues related to rural and agricultural communities.
- Ability to engage with EPA and utilize our resources.
- Evaluate EPA programs and relevant federal agency programs for possible synergies.
- Identify potential data gaps and how rural policy informs current rule making processes and other EPA processes.
- Identify challenges related to rural communication and community engagement.
- Apply your background in social science, environmental science, agricultural science, public health, or communication science to real-world rural communication and community engagement settings.
- Develop research summaries and other communications for technical and nontechnical audiences.

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Rebecca Perrin (perrin.rebecca@epa.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor.

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: Winter 2025. All start dates are flexible and vary depending on numerous factors. Click [here](#) for detailed information about start dates.

Appointment Length: The appointment will initially be for one year and may be renewed three to four additional years upon EPA recommendation and subject to availability of funding.

Level of Participation: The appointment is full-time.

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. Click [here](#) for detailed information about full-time stipends.

EPA Security Clearance: Completion of a successful background

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investigation by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is required for an applicant to be on-boarded at EPA.

ORISE Information: This program, administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established through an interagency agreement between DOE and EPA. Participants do not become employees of EPA, DOE or the program administrator, and there are no employment-related benefits. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE.

ORISE offers all ORISE EPA graduate students and Postdocs a free 5-year membership to the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA).

The successful applicant(s) will be required to comply with Environmental, Safety and Health (ES&H) requirements of the hosting facility.

Questions: Please see the [FAQ section](#) of our website. After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process please email ORISE.EPA.REG@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should be currently pursuing or have received a master's degree in one of the relevant fields. Degree must have been received within five years of the appointment start date. Alternatively, candidate may be currently pursuing a PhD.

Preferred skills/experience:

- Ability to communicate well, both orally and in writing.
- Ability to convey complex scientific and technical concepts to diverse audiences.
- Experience collaborating with teams and work groups to arrive at solutions to complex problems.
- Ability to perform literature reviews and other summaries of scientific findings.
- Ability to review data and find patterns.
- Ability to be a systems or holistic thinker.
- Skill working with diverse colleagues from different fields and roles.
- Organizational and time management skills.

Point of Contact [Debi Ash](#)

Eligibility • **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only

Requirements • **Degree:** Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or currently pursuing.

• **Discipline(s):**

- **Communications and Graphics Design** ([3](#))
- **Computer, Information, and Data Sciences** ([4](#))
- **Earth and Geosciences** ([2](#))

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- **Engineering** ([5](#))
- **Environmental and Marine Sciences** ([7](#))
- **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([17](#))
- **Mathematics and Statistics** ([11](#))
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences** ([30](#))