HRC Decision Support Social Scientist

The Hydrologic Research Center (HRC), San Diego, is a public, non-profit research, technology transfer, and training organization dedicated to developing effective and sustainable solutions to global water issues. HRC aims to provide a conduit for academic and other up-to-date research suitable for effective application to field operational problems involving hydrometeorological hazards. HRC operational systems currently support hydrometeorological forecasters in more than 72 countries, serving about 3 billion people worldwide. Please visit the HRC website for more details: https://www.hrcwater.org.

HRC is seeking a Decision-Support Social Scientist to join our interdisciplinary team. The successful candidate will be key in supporting programs that provide actionable insights to disaster management, water management, and planning agencies. This highly collaborative role involves reciprocal training and partnership development with global weather services, hydrological services, disaster management agencies, and water resource management agencies. Together, we aim to develop sustainable partnerships between forecasting and response actors for improved hazard response.

Main Goals of the Role:

The Decision-Support Social Scientist will contribute to Weather Ready Nations (WRNs) projects, which aim to support National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) and National Disaster Management Agencies (NDMAs) in developing impact-based multi-hazard early warning services (IB-MEWS). The primary goal is to empower individuals and communities threatened by hazards by providing the knowledge, expertise, and guidance needed to reduce or prevent injuries, loss of life, and damage to property, assets, and the environment. This role will focus on:

1. Developing IB-MEWS Systems: Support NMHSs and NDMAs in creating early warning services that combine hazard, exposure, and vulnerability data to identify risk and encourage timely decision-making and early action.
2. Facilitating Impact-Based Forecasting: Move from hazard-focused warnings to impact-based forecasts by synthesizing weather forecasts with quasi-static information on exposure and vulnerability. This will provide more unambiguous risk identification for improved user response.
3. Enhancing Communication between Experts and Communities: Foster preparedness by promoting the exchange of actionable risk information between experts and communities, enhancing both mobilization (willingness to act) and empowerment (knowledge of what to do).
4. Strengthening Capacity in Service Delivery: Work with NMHSs and NDMAs to strengthen capacity along the service delivery chain, ensuring communities receive integrated and effective forecasts and warnings that reduce damages and losses from natural hazards.

Key Responsibilities:

- Support decision-making processes, including development of evacuation messages and timing.
- Collect, analyze, and manage survey data and control data quality.
- Conduct statistical analysis and produce research proposals, protocols, presentations, technical reports, and other publications.
- Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams, including meteorologists, hydrologists, disaster management professionals, and social scientists, to integrate insights and ensure the effectiveness of early warning systems.

Specific Requirements:

- MSc or PhD in Quantitative Sociology, Economics, Decision Science, or a related field, plus up to 5 years or higher of relevant experience.
- Experience in developing decision-support frameworks for social science applications.
- Proficiency in data analysis and numerical methods.
- Strong communication skills to effectively present processes and results (verbally, graphically, and in writing) to colleagues, clients, and stakeholders across various sectors.
- Knowledge of disaster management principles.
- Understanding of the socioeconomic impacts of natural disasters and water resource planning.
- Experience with hypothesis validation and decision-making aimed at solving disaster management challenges.
- Familiarity with multi-stakeholder planning and management processes is desirable.

Soft Skills:

- Problem-solving: Ability to think critically and devise creative solutions to complex challenges in disaster management and early warning services.
- Adaptability: Comfortable working in dynamic environments and adjusting strategies to address evolving hazards and operational challenges.

Additional Information and Instructions:

- This role may require domestic and international travel.
- HRC's office is located in San Diego, California, and all HRC employees must be California residents.
- Salary range of $69K–$84K is commensurate with qualifications and experience. HRC provides a competitive benefits program that includes retirement, medical, dental, and vision plans and paid vacations, holidays, and sick leave.
- Candidates should email a cover letter highlighting their interest in the position, their current CV, and the names of two references familiar with the candidate's past work to "Chair, HRC Decision Support Social Scientist Search Committee (hiring-decision-scientist@hrcwater.org). Selected candidates will be provided an application form to complete before final selection.
- HRC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status, gender identity, or sexual orientation.
- In compliance with federal law, all persons hired must verify their identity and eligibility to work in the United States and complete the required employment eligibility verification document, Form I-9, upon hire.