2019 ASPPH/NHTSA Public Health Fellowship
Program Announcement

ASPPH Graduate Training Programs
EXPERIENCE Public Health
2019 Fellowship Opportunities
ASPPH/NHTSA Public Health Fellowship Program

Program Announcement

The mission of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is to save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce economic costs due to traffic crashes. NHTSA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation, develops and promotes evidence-based behavioral safety programs, conducts research on a wide range of traffic safety issues, and oversees national safety campaigns. The agency provides national leadership to States on traffic injury prevention initiatives, emergency medical services (EMS), and 9-1-1 programs as part of its core mission. NHTSA also maintains a robust vehicle safety research program and develops and enforces vehicle safety standards.

The first director of NHTSA, Dr. William Haddon, developed a public health approach toward reducing injuries and fatalities nearly 50 years ago that still serves as their guiding light. While at NHTSA, ASPPH fellows hone their skills and knowledge in public health while learning about traffic injury prevention, emergency medical services, and motor vehicle safety. Today our nation is on the cusp of an exciting new era in transportation with advanced crash avoidance technology and automated driving systems. But it may be quite a few years before most vehicles on the road reach the self-driving stage. Until such time, maintaining a focus on the behavioral factors that cause the vast majority of serious vehicle crashes, such as impaired driving, will be essential to reducing fatalities.

In 2016, nearly 37,500 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes. Crashes were the leading cause of death for young people, (ages 16 to 24), and the 7th leading cause overall of “years of life lost” in the U.S. (DOT HS 812 297) in 2014. Significant progress has been made in recent years in reducing crashes and injuries due to national safety efforts, safer vehicles, and safer roads. Over the past decade, the motor vehicle fatality rate has declined by nine percent. But there was a significant upswing in fatalities in 2015 and 2016 that has dampened that success. There is still much work to do to stem that rise and return to the downward trend.

NHTSA provides leadership to the motor vehicle and highway safety community through the development of innovative approaches to preventing roadway crashes and resulting deaths and injuries. It works closely with other federal agencies, such as the CDC, state and local government agencies, law enforcement agencies, EMS, public health organizations, and safety advocacy organizations to implement evidence-based programs and safety campaigns.

The ASPPH/NHTSA Public Health Fellowship Program is a prestigious opportunity for interested public health graduates with excellent quality analytic, research, and program development skills who is interested in helping to make an impact on reducing traffic injuries and fatalities in the United States. The selected fellow(s) will work with experienced professionals in NHTSA to learn all components of the comprehensive approach to traffic safety; develop a thorough understanding of the shared missions between public health, traffic safety, and injury prevention; and experience working within a Federal agency on projects affecting the public health of the entire Nation.

Upon completion of the Fellowship, the fellow will have developed a greater understanding of the role of public health in reducing motor vehicle crashes and injuries and will have made a valuable contribution toward NHTSA’s mission of saving lives and reducing the tragic toll of preventable deaths.
1. Eligibility

To be eligible for this program, applicants must have received their Masters or Doctorate degree prior to the beginning of the fellowship (no later than June 2019) or within the last five years (no earlier than June 2014). Graduate degrees must come from an ASPPH member graduate school or program of public health, accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). (For a list of ASPPH members, see www.aspph.org.) All applicants must be U.S. citizens or hold a visa permitting permanent residence (“Green Card”) in the U.S. to be eligible for the fellowship program.

2. Period of Performance

Fellowship positions are full-time training opportunities for a 12-month period, beginning in early-September 2019. Positions may possibly be extended for up to two additional years, pending availability of funds and satisfactory progress by the fellow.

3. Location

The fellowship positions will be located at the U.S. Department of Transportation Headquarters (DOT), Washington, D.C. The selected applicants will be required to relocate to the fellowship location. Relocation expenses will not be reimbursed.

4. Funds Available

The selected applicants will receive a training stipend in the amount of $58,700, paid in semi-monthly installments during the 12-month fellowship period. In addition, the fellows will have access to a $11,200 fellowship expense allowance to offset the costs of health insurance premiums and fellowship-related travel and training expenses. Lastly, fellows will receive a $1,300 local travel (metro) allowance and a $6,000 housing allowance.

The selected fellows are responsible for their own relocation to and from the fellowship site (relocation expenses are not covered). The fellows are also required to maintain their own health insurance while participating in the fellowship program. An allowance will be available to help cover health insurance premium costs.

5. Fellowship Opportunities Available

There are currently two (2) fellowship opportunities available with NHTSA. Please see Section 12 for the fellowship project descriptions.

6. Expected Benefits

The selected fellows will work with experienced professionals in NHTSA to learn all components of the comprehensive approach to traffic safety; develop a thorough understanding of the shared missions between public health, traffic safety, emergency medical services, and injury prevention;
and experience working within a Federal agency on projects affecting the public health of the entire Nation.

7. Application Procedure

Each applicant may apply for up to three (3) fellowship positions. Applications are to be completed online through the ASPPH Training Programs Online Application System at https://fellowships-internships.aspph.org/. Incomplete applications, and those that have not been submitted by the deadline, will not be accepted. Please see Section 10 for detailed application instructions.

Application Deadline:
Friday, February 15, 2019

8. Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess the applicant’s ability to participate in the fellowship program.

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<tr>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
<th>Maximum Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of Essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strength of Credentials</td>
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<td>Previous Experience</td>
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<td>Recommendations</td>
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9. Review Committee & Selection

On or near April 1, 2019, the NHTSA review committee will complete the technical review of the applications based on the criteria described above. NHTSA staff may contact applicants for an in-person (if you currently reside in the Washington, DC Metro area) or phone interview during the review period (~March 1, 2019 – April 1, 2019), for additional information and/or clarification of information relevant to the application. The selected applicants will be notified by phone and/or email. All other applicants will be notified by email.
10. Application Instructions

The **ASPPH Fellowship Online Application System** is a centralized application service offering a secure, easy, and convenient way for students/graduates of ASPPH member schools and programs of public health to apply to all ASPPH Fellowships and Internships. The online application is also accessible through the ASPPH website at [www.aspph.org](http://www.aspph.org).

https://fellowships-internships.aspph.org/

To begin your online application, please click the "Sign Up" button, below the Login button, to create a password protected account. Signing up is free and easy. If you already have an account, you can log in on this page as well.

Each applicant may apply for up to three fellowship positions, as described in Section 6. Please carefully read the instructions that appear throughout the online application system. After submission, applicants may edit applications by clicking on the pencil icon (✍️) in the “My Status” section at any time prior to the application deadline. The application may be edited as necessary at any time prior to the application deadline. **If you edit your application, you must resubmit it before the deadline or it will not be reviewed.** Applications are reviewed only after the online application deadline has passed. Incomplete applications, and those that have not been submitted by the deadline, will not be accepted.

To complete the online application, you will need to provide the following information and documentation:

- **Degree and expected graduation date**
- **Name, email address, and phone number of your faculty advisor if you are a current student.**
  
  Your faculty advisor will be asked to confirm your expected graduation date.
- **Resume/CV (saved as a PDF File)**
- **Graduate transcript from an ASPPH-member school or program of public health**
  
  The transcript may be official or unofficial. If you are selected for a fellowship position, you will be required to provide an official transcript.
- **Name, email address, and phone number of two recommenders.**

  Your recommenders will be asked to provide letters of recommendation for you. The recommenders will be emailed directly from the application system, but only **after you submit your application for the first time. Do not submit your application for the first time on the due date; your recommenders will not have time to submit their letters.** If you plan to submit your final application on the due date, you should enter your recommenders’ information before then, submit the application in order to prompt the emails to your
One essay per position (1500 word max saved as a PDF File)

You must submit a separate essay for each position to which you are applying explaining your interests, strengths, and qualifications for that particular position, as well as how it will benefit your long-term career plans in the field of public health.

Applications must be submitted electronically, through the Online Application System, by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Friday, February 15, 2019. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Unsubmitted applications will not be reviewed.

11. Questions and Contacts

All questions regarding the application process should be sent to TrainingPrograms@aspph.org

12. Fellowship Project Descriptions - 2019

**Position # NHTSA-19-01**

Fellowship Training Area: *Impaired Driving and Occupant Protection*

Location: *Washington, DC*

Fellowship Activities:

This Office has national responsibility for developing and improving traffic safety programs aimed at increasing seat belt and child restraint use and reducing alcohol- and drug-impaired driving, as well as distracted driving. The Office is responsible for demonstrating approaches and strategies for increasing seat belt and child restraint use and reducing impaired and distracted driving. The Office develops appropriate training (e.g., establishing alcohol interlock programs; child passenger safety technicians; anti-texting for government employees), provides technical assistance to states and communities to improve their traffic safety initiatives; tracks state legislative initiatives; and develops strategies to educate the public on traffic safety. The Office is also responsible for developing and testing new and innovative approaches to increase seat belt use, reduce alcohol- and drug-impaired driving and reduce distracted driving.

Opportunities for the fellowship may include:

- Reviewing results from seat belt demonstration programs to identify what has worked, what has not worked well, and developing a strategy for future seat belt programs.

- Analyzing/examining survey data from impaired driving, occupant protection, child passenger safety and distracted driving surveys to identify opportunities for program development.

- Participating, with experienced professionals, in design, review and delivery of impaired driving, occupant protection and distracted driving programs.
legislative initiatives and assisting in responding to requests for assistance from NHTSA regional offices.

- Reviewing data on specific topics to help the office better target its efforts to achieve maximum gain.
- Participating in fellowship related meetings and conferences. Recent fellows have attended meetings of the American Public Health Association, Lifesavers (a highway safety conference), and the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting.
- Participating in field observations such as, site visits to a regional or state highway safety office, site visits to other federal agencies, focus group discussions, and training pilot tests.
- Participating on teams and working with other NHTSA and Department of Transportation offices and staff on cross-cutting opportunities such as data analysis, technological approached for reducing problems/increasing safety, research and evaluation, and special events.
- Training opportunities related to traffic safety and/or professional development such as the Johns Hopkins University Summer Institute on Injury Prevention, SAS, and Geographic Information System courses.

**Position # NHTSA-19-02**

**Fellowship Training Area: Behavioral Safety Research**

**Location:** Washington, DC

**Fellowship Activities:**

This Office studies behaviors and attitudes in highway safety, focusing on drivers, passengers, pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists. The Office has national responsibility for identifying and measuring behaviors involved in crashes or associated with injuries as well as for developing and refining countermeasures to deter unsafe behaviors and promote safe alternatives. To support this effort, the Office conducts research and evaluation on a number of traffic safety issues including alcohol- and drug-impaired driving; seat belts and child restraint devices; speeding and aggressive driving; pedestrian, bicycle and motorcycle safety; traffic safety for older adults and teen drivers; driver licensing and education; emergency medical services; distracted and drowsy driving; and international road safety issues. The research conducted by the Office employs behavioral science, public health and human factors theories and methodologically sound practices to increase safe driving and to reduce injuries and death resulting from vehicle crashes.

Opportunities for the fellowship may include:

- Conducting literature reviews on specialized topics such as college programs to reduce drowsy, distracted, or impaired driving or methodologies for increasing responses to surveys.
- Analyzing survey data from national surveys on a variety of topics, including impaired driving, speeding, and seat belts.
- Participating, with experienced professionals, in the design, review and evaluation of research studies.
- Reviewing research reports and writing research summaries on traffic safety topics.
• Participating in fellowship related meetings and national conferences such as the annual meetings of the American Public Health Association, the Transportation Research Board, and other traffic safety conferences.

• Participating in data collection such as site visits to regional or state highway safety offices, focus group discussions, and observations of experiments.

• Participating on teams and working with other NHTSA and U.S. Department of Transportation offices on cross-cutting opportunities such as data analysis, program development and special events.

• Training related to traffic safety or professional development such as the Johns Hopkins University Summer Institute on Injury Prevention or Geographic Information System (GIS) or data analysis software courses.