2019 ASPPH/CDC Public Health Fellowship
Program Announcement

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

Program Announcement

The ASPPH/CDC Public Health Fellowship Program is a collaborative effort between the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). One of the primary purposes of this effort is to “identify new approaches and opportunities for field experience in which graduate candidates and early career professionals with graduate degrees can practice applying skills and knowledge learned in the classroom and field.”

The Program’s purpose is to enable early career professionals with graduate degrees in public health (Masters and Doctoral level) an opportunity to round out their academic training and gain practical public health experience. Fellows will benefit from: exposure to state-of-the-art technology and databases; acquisition of skills and knowledge to enhance their careers; and interaction with technical experts in their chosen fields.

Upon completion of the Program, fellows will have made useful contributions to projects of national public health importance that are related to the mission of the CDC.

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. CPH preferred.

2. Period of Performance

Fellowship positions are full-time training opportunities for the duration of one year beginning on July 9, 2019. Positions may possibly be extended for up to two additional years, pending availability of funds and satisfactory progress by the fellow.

3. Location

Fellowship opportunities will be located in Atlanta, Georgia. Selected fellows are required to relocate to the fellowship location; relocation expenses will not be reimbursed.
4. Funds Available

The annual training stipend for the fellowship positions is $48,109 for Masters level candidates, and $53,137 for Doctoral level candidates (MD, PhD, ScD, or DrPH). The fellowship stipend is intended to assist with personal living expenses.

In addition to the fellowship stipend, fellows will have access to a $4,000 health allowance that is intended to help offset the costs of health/dental/vision insurance premiums during the one year fellowship period. In addition, some positions may offer a “travel/training allowance” that may be used to cover project-related travel, tuition, journal subscriptions, association dues, etc. Not all positions will receive a travel/training allowance. The need for a travel/training allowance is determined by each individual host-office, not by ASPPH.

5. Fellowship Opportunities Available

There are currently four (4) fellowship positions available for the 2019 ASPPH/CDC Public Health Fellowship Program.

The following is a breakdown of fellowship opportunities at each Center/Institute/Program Office (C/I/O) at the CDC:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C/I/O</th>
<th>Number of Positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Sciences (CSELS)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention (NCHHSTP)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To read full project descriptions for these positions, please see Section 11, and/or visit the ASPPH Training Programs Online Application System, as noted below.

6. 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/](https://fellowships-internships.aspph.org/). Incomplete applications, and those that have not been submitted by the deadline, will not be accepted. Please see Section 9 for detailed application instructions.

Thursday, January 31, 2019
7. Evaluation Criteria

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
<th>Maximum Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Essay</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strength of Credentials</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Experience</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Review & Final Selection

By early-March an Objective Review Committee will complete the review of the applications based on the criteria described above. Candidates receiving a high score in Objective Review will advance to Technical Review at CDC. Mid-March through mid-April, applicants may be contacted by CDC staff and/or ASPPH staff for a telephone interview, additional information, and/or clarification of information relevant to the application. All final selections will be made by mid-May. Those applicants chosen will be immediately notified by phone and email. All other applicants will be notified by email.

9. 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.

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 recommenders to be sent, and then click the edit button to continue working on your application. Remember to resubmit by the deadline.
- 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 **Thursday, January 31, 2019.**

*Incomplete applications will not be accepted.*

*Unsubmitted applications will not be reviewed.*

10. Questions and Contacts

All questions regarding the application process should be sent to

[TrainingPrograms@aspph.org](mailto:TrainingPrograms@aspph.org)
11. Fellowship Project Descriptions for 2019

**NOTE:** All positions are for a one-year period beginning July 9, 2019

- **Position #Y2-19-SEL-01**

  Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Sciences (CSELS); Division of Scientific Education and Professional Development; Epidemiology Workforce Branch (DSEPD)
  
  Atlanta, GA

  **Fellowship Title:**

  *Preparing the Public Health Workforce in Applied Epidemiology and Surveillance*

  **Office Background and Objectives:**

  The Division of Scientific Education and Professional Development (DSEPD) provides leadership in public health training and education, managing innovative, evidence-based programs to prepare the public health workforce to meet public health challenges of the 21st century. One of the most recognizable DSEPD training programs is the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) program, a unique 2-year post-graduate training program of service and on-the-job learning for health professionals interested in the practice of applied epidemiology. We provide formal instruction to these officers through courses in epidemiology, biostatistics, public health ethics and law, evaluation of surveillance systems, and scientific writing supplements experiential learning opportunities.

  The EIS Program is a fast-paced environment, particularly through our support to CDC and other public health partners as public health first-responders. Since 1951, over 3,500 EIS officers have rapidly responded to requests for epidemiologic assistance (i.e., Epi-Aids) within the United States and throughout the world. We are also uniquely positioned to use traditional and new teaching platforms to contribute to the pipeline of a highly qualified public health workforce that can adapt to recent public health policies (e.g. Affordable Care Act, Electronic Health Records and Meaningful Use for Information Technology Systems).

  **Project Description:**

  The fellow will gain exposure to program implementation; collection, synthesis, and presentation of data; communication, and training development. The fellow will train directly with the ERSA team (Evaluation, Recruitment, Selection, and Analysis) and possibly the other 2 teams within the branch (Field Support Team and Curriculum Team), as time and interests allow. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

  - Train alongside EIS and other branch fellowships to gain exposure to and understanding of priority program activities, including ERSA efforts to:
    - Collect, synthesize, and communicate data for division and CDC leadership;
    - Develop and launch data collection tools;
Analyze and interpret data;
Collect, synthesize, and communicate data related to the public health impact of work conducted by EISOs;
Coordinate large scale emergency responses requiring the deployment of many EISOs (e.g., the Ebola response, West Nile Virus, MERS-CoV); and,
Development training and curriculum materials, courses, and workshops.

Travel & Training:

The Fellow will have the opportunity to attend Tuesday Morning Seminars where CDC and ATSDR scientists, EIS Officers, and medical professionals describe recent epidemiological investigations along with recommended practical public health actions/clinical recommendations that are consistent with the interpretation of the scientific investigation. The Fellow will also have the opportunity to attend the annual EIS Conference in Atlanta, GA, a regional or national conference of interest, and other training related to project activities. Training topics may include, but are not limited to, scientific writing, plain writing techniques, health communications and marketing, and professional presentation skills. Fellow may be required to travel to the EIS regional training in location TBD.

Required and/or Desired Skills and Knowledge:

The position requires an understanding of communication principles and practice, the ability to identify, interpret and synthesize qualitative and quantitative data into different formats for different audiences (e.g. CDC Director, media, Congress, general public). The Fellow should have an MPH with a concentration in behavioral sciences, public health policy, or epidemiology; excellent oral and written communication skills; experience in document design and layout; ability to apply analytical methods; and computer literacy including Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint. Skills in project management, program evaluation, and adult learning principles are also highly desired, but not required. In addition, the Fellow needs to be able to manage projects independently and in a team setting and have the ability to interact in a diplomatic way with a wide range of participants.

Expected Benefits:

Benefits to the fellow include, but are not limited to:
- Experience with applying public health program management, implementation, and evaluation principles.
- Opportunity to learn about state-federal relationships in public health.
- Experience in shaping program policies and operational framework.
- Experience in writing and reporting program outcomes to multiple audiences and stakeholders.
- Training under epidemiology and surveillance subject matter experts to develop educational materials for applied public health scientists.
- Opportunity to learn about to cutting edge public health policies, concerns, and outbreak investigations and interventions throughout the nation.
Position # Y2-19-STP-01

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP), Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP)
Atlanta, GA

Fellowship Title:

HIV Prevention Program Monitoring and Evaluation

Office Background and Objectives:

The fellowship opportunity is available in the Capacity Building Branch (CBB), Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP) within the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, GA. CBB’s mission is to improve the performance of the HIV prevention workforce by increasing the knowledge, skills, technology, and infrastructure to implement and sustain science-based, culturally appropriate HIV prevention interventions and strategies. As such, the Branch oversees a network of capacity-building assistance (CBA) providers who provide training and technical assistance to health departments, community-based organizations, and healthcare organizations implementing HIV prevention programming.

Project Description:

The fellow will be exposed to projects related to CBB’s ongoing effort to monitor, evaluate, and improve services provided by the CBA provider network, and to collect and analyze program data. More specifically, the fellow will participate in management and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, interpretation of the data, and preparation of reports, presentations, and manuscripts which will occur under the direction of an assigned CDC Mentor.

Travel & Training:

Travel and/or training is possible for project-related work.

Required and/or Desired Skills and Knowledge:

- Doctoral degree preferred; qualified Masters degree considered.
- Demonstrated knowledge of program evaluation and translation.
- 2 years of program evaluation experience preferred.
- Ability to manage and analyze large datasets using SAS, SPSS, or like software.
- Ability to effectively communicate with both scientific and plain language writing.
- Ability to manage projects independently and in a team-setting.

Expected Benefits:

This fellowship will provide the opportunity for the candidate to utilize their academic training and gain practical public health experience. The fellow would have access to a large dataset and would be mentored through the process of cleaning, analyzing, and reporting out on important program data with the potential for broad impact in the field of HIV prevention.
Position #Y2-19-ZID-01

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Division of High Consequence Pathogens and Pathology (DHCPP)
Atlanta, GA

Fellowship Title:

Building Capacity for Bacterial Zoonotic Diseases

Office Background and Objectives:

The Division of High Consequence Pathogens and Pathology (DHCPP) provides technical expertise and laboratory diagnostic support for a host of extremely dangerous pathogens. Staff from DHCPP respond to outbreaks around the world, work with partners to implement effective prevention measures against future outbreaks and conduct public health research to improve diagnostic assays and treatment of this diseases in order to protect Americans and the world’s population from infectious disease threats.

The Bacterial Special Pathogens Branch (BSPB) is one of five branches in DHCPP. BSPB focuses on infectious diseases caused by bacterial pathogens such as anthrax, brucellosis, leptospirosis, melioidosis and nocardias.

Project Description:

The participant will gain experience managing project activities including building and maintaining relationships with international partners. Tasks that the fellow will be exposed to may include developing work plans, time lines, and budgets for each project activities; monitoring implementation of activities and identifying delays and challenges with the project team; developing an evaluation plan for project activities and assisting with processing funding mechanisms. The participant may also help develop project proposals for additional funding or phase-2 activities

BSPB projects include strengthening surveillance systems for a specific disease in human or animal populations, improving laboratory diagnostic capacity including providing appropriate training and supplies and assisting countries to implement effective and culturally appropriate prevention and control plans for targeted diseases.

In BSPB each project has a team of people including epidemiologists, laboratory scientists, public health analysts and senior leadership that work together to ensure projects are successfully implemented. The participant will be a member of 2-3 project teams and learn from the other members of the team regarding all aspects of program management. The participant will also build skills in surveillance, survey development and health communications.

Travel & Training:

The participant will travel (2-3 trips) to international sites to gain experience with program development and project management with partners. Site visits will include reviewing activity objectives, time lines and assisting partners in developing work plans to ensure activity
objectives are met. Participants will also help monitor activities and develop evaluation plans to measure the effectiveness of surveillance or intervention programs. Potential Sites include but are not limited to Ethiopia, Cameroon or Uganda. During each visit the participant will be assigned to train under a CDC employee who will mentor the participant and participate in activities and meetings at the site.

The participant will also have the possibility of attending a training to further develop their program management skills. Assistance will be given to the applicant to find and register for appropriate opportunities.

**Required and/or Desired Skills and Knowledge:**

- Program Management and Planning
- Program Monitoring and Evaluation
- Budget Execution
- Proposal Development
- Strong writing skills
- Arabic or French language preferred

**Expected Benefits:**

The participant will expand and strengthen their skill set in public health management. Specifically, the participant will gain experience in all aspects of project management, understand CDC processes and mechanisms for funding partners through contracts and cooperative agreements and will strengthen their diplomacy skills to work with a wide range of partners to implement activities. While training under the project team, the participant will also have the opportunity to develop or strengthen skills related to surveillance, survey development, and health communications.
Position #Y2-19-ZID-02

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP)

Atlanta, GA

Fellowship Title:

Study of the Epidemiology of Healthcare-associated Infections

Office Background and Objectives:

CDC’s Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP) is within the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID). DHQP’s mission is to protect patients and healthcare workers and to promote safety in healthcare settings. Some key DHQP activities include:

- Investigate and respond to emerging infections and adverse events in healthcare facilities, including healthcare-associated infections; antimicrobial drug-resistant infections; adverse events from the use or misuse of a drug (like accidental overdoses); blood, organ, and tissue safety; and vaccine safety.
- Support the enhancement of state infrastructure for elimination of healthcare-associated infections.
- Develop and disseminate evidence-based guidelines and recommendations to prevent and control healthcare-associated infections, antimicrobial resistance, and medication errors.
- Provide healthcare facilities, states, and federal agencies with data for action through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), a tool for monitoring and preventing healthcare-associated infections, used by healthcare facilities in all 50 states.

Project Description:

The Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion has an interest in producing data reports and analyses from large national datasets, including national surveillance data, on healthcare-associated infections and antibiotic resistance. The fellow would train under members of the Science Office at the Office of the Director on conducting such epidemiologic analyses/reports, as well as gain exposure to ongoing research and development projects. An example of such a project includes innovative analyses of data collected through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) on healthcare associated infections, as well as their causing pathogens and their antimicrobial susceptibility data. The fellow would also have the opportunity to conduct analyses of data obtained from other projects, possibly including some conducted through the Emerging Infections Program, as well as from large publicly available datasets, such as electronic health records or payer databases. He/she may also be involved in the development of public-facing portals containing information relevant to patient safety. Epidemiologic and statistic support, mentoring, and resources will be provided.
Travel & Training:

Some domestic travel may be suitable to project needs; limited funding will be provided to attend appropriate training and/or conferences.

Required and/or Desired Skills and Knowledge:

- Thorough grounding in basic epidemiologic principles, including study design, analytic techniques and interpretation and application of study results.
- Excellent analytic skills and some experience in conducting epidemiologic analyses.
- Experience in analyses using large databases is desirable but not required.
- Experience in the areas of infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance is desirable but not required.
- Excellent organizational skills.
- Excellent writing skills and strong interest in writing papers.
- Highly motivated, able to take initiative, able to contribute collaboratively to making decisions about the project.

Expected Benefits:

- Substantial exposure to the analysis and management of datasets.
- Experience applying epidemiologic skills and principals to public health and healthcare safety issues.
- Experience in writing and publishing peer-reviewed papers.
- Experience in training under mentors and other epidemiologists on healthcare quality research projects.
- Professional development as an epidemiologist, including presentations and publications.
- Exposure to a federal, public health agency.
- Potential for training and travel related to the project.