



Region IV Public Health Training Center

Region IV Public Health Training Center Pathways to Practice Scholar Field Placement Program North Carolina – Spring Scholar Position

AGENCY: Durham County Department of Public Health

POSITION TITLE: Durham County Department of Public Health Intern

LOCATION: 414 East Main St. Durham, NC 27701

AGENCY WEBSITE: www.dcopublichealth.org

NUMBER OF POSITIONS AVAILABLE: 1 (Spring 2023)

DESIRED START DATES: January 23, 2023

* Interested students should apply as soon as possible. Applications are reviewed and considered in the order they are received. Submit to Elizabeth Kidwell at elkidwell@emory.edu

Note: To apply to more than one posting, submit separate applications specifying the position title in the subject line. Please be specific in your email *and* cover letter.

DESCRIPTION: The following position is offered as a field placement through the Region IV Public Health Training Center (<http://www.sph.emory.edu/r4phtc>).

NOTE: Hybrid/Remote students may be considered as long as able to travel to Durham for meetings.

The mission of the Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) is to partner with the community to advance health equity, protect the environment, and promote health and wellness for all. DCoDPH is committed to:

- Providing leadership and education for patients and community at large.
- Enabling our patients and community to make informed and reasonable health choices.
- Creating an environment that promotes satisfaction and pride among staff.
- Responding to the needs and expectations of the community.
- Providing excellent customer services, dedicated to the belief that every citizen deserves to be treated with respect, dignity, and quality, irrespective of their race, religion, economic status, age, gender, national origin, physical ability, sexual orientation, health status or ability to pay.
- Making available training and workshops to keep staff up-to-date in their field of expertise.

DCoDPH Vision: Collaborating with our community to advocate, empower, and protect the health and environment for all Durham County residents.

The Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) is responsible for public health programs for the entire community. Major services include education, communicable disease control, maternal and child health services, dental health, laboratories, and vital statistics. The Department also regulates sanitation in food-handling establishments, monitors solid waste disposal and conducts disease prevention programs. Regional and local efforts are also being directed towards bioterrorism, disaster preparedness and pandemic response.

POSITION DESCRIPTION: The student intern will have the opportunity to assist with the development of the 2023 Community Health Assessment. A Community Health Assessment (CHA) is a process by which community members and stakeholders gain an understanding of the health issues that affect their county by collecting, analyzing and sharing information about community assets and needs. The process results in the selection of community health priorities.

The Durham County CHA is rooted in the community and uses high-quality data to form a clear and detailed picture of the health, assets and needs of the community. The purpose is to guide decision-making, programs and policies so that all people of Durham have equitable opportunities for safety and good physical, mental and social health.

The Partnership for a Healthy Durham, Durham County Department of Public Health and Duke Health, which includes Duke University Hospital and Duke Regional Hospital have collaborated to conduct the Community Health Assessment for years. Durham's community survey and writing of the document is carried out community volunteers, Partnership members and staff from the Durham County Department of Public Health and Duke.

The primary goal of the Community Health Assessment is to provide a comprehensive set of valid and reliable information about the health of the Durham community - and to do this in way to make it easy for members of the Durham community to access and understand the information. Additional goals include meeting the standards related to Community Health Assessment established by (a) the North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation Board and the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The 2017 and 2020 CHAs have included a more intentional framing around health and racial equity. Each section of the 2020 document provides context for disparities seen by race, ethnicity, gender, education, income, sexual orientation, ability and more. Future Community Health Assessments will continue to build equity into its document to provide a full picture of societal structural issues that impact health and resulting inequities.

The overall goal of the project is to increase the focus on equity throughout the 2023 Durham County CHA document to build on past community health assessments and center the impact of historical and present systemic practices on health outcomes. Students will achieve this by reviewing and assessing local health department Community Health Assessments from across the country to identify models and best practices for incorporating equity. Students will then develop recommendations for strategies to further include in the 2023 Durham County CHA report, which will require revising and developing templates to be used by writing teams of the Durham County CHA.

In addition to writing a section of the CHA, the student will also support the CHA Writers' Training which is necessary for writers to understand the approach, expectations, responsibilities and templates available for the writing process. Students will accomplish this by assisting with writer recruitment, planning aspects of the training session and creating a training registration process.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a graduate public health student.

THE STUDENT WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST WITH THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

- Review the 2020 Durham County Community Health Assessment executive summary and full report.
- Research and identify best examples of recent (within the past 4 years) Community Health Assessments where equity is central to the report.
- Develop recommendations on how Durham County can better incorporate equity into its 2023 CHA report.
- Revise existing Durham County CHA writers' templates to further incorporate equity consistently throughout the 2023 document.
- Read/view the suggested materials on social drivers of health and health inequities.
- Plan and deliver aspects of the writers' training related to CHA templates and key points for writing teams to use equity and inclusive lenses.
- Develop a section draft for the 2023 CHA.
- Participate in at least 1 virtual Partnership for a Healthy Durham committee, Steering or Quarterly meeting.

Attend/assist with 1 in person Partnership for a Healthy Durham committee activity.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMPETENCIES/SKILLS STUDENT MAY STRENGTHEN DURING PLACEMENT:

1. Program Planning
2. Community Partnership/Engagement
3. Cross-sector Partnerships
4. Effective Communication
5. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

TRAVEL: Yes (*There may be travel to meetings and trainings related to the Community Health Assessment if they are held in person. All meetings and trainings would take place in Durham. Hybrid/Remote students may be considered as long as able to travel to Durham for meetings.*)

POSITION TYPE: Region IV Public Health Training Center Field Placements (for MPH/MSPH students)

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:

Preference will be given to master's level public health graduate students. Students must complete the program prior to graduation. [Past recipients of the Pathways to Practice Award are not eligible to apply again.](#)

Your cover letter should include the semesters you are applying for (Spring 2023), the title of the position you are applying to, and citizenship or permanent resident visa status. In your resume, include the name of your degree program, department, year of study (e.g. 1st year MPH student), and expected graduation date.

WORK AUTHORIZATION: U.S. Citizen, Permanent U.S. Resident

Citizenship statement: The Region IV Public Health Training Center is a federally-funded program which has a citizenship requirement. To be eligible to apply for this position, you must be either a U.S. citizen, a non-citizen U.S. national, or a foreign national having in your possession a visa permitting permanent residence in the U.S.

AWARD LEVEL: \$3,500 award

* Note: Travel costs will not be covered by the program beyond the total \$3,500 award.

APPROXIMATE HOURS PER WEEK & DURATION: Approximately 15-20 hours a week for 12 weeks.

**Students may be limited in the minimum or maximum number of hours they can work per semester based on their university, school or degree's policies. If this work will be also be used as a graduation requirement, the student should verify those requirements and abide by their university policies.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Please read the “*Student Scholar Field Placement Guidebook*” for more details about the Pathways to Practice Scholars Program and requirements. It is located on the Field Placements page of the Region IV PHTC website: <https://r4phtc.org/field-placements/>

TO APPLY: Please submit the required documents following specifications above (references, resume, and cover letter indicating the agency name and citizenship/visa status) to Elizabeth Kidwell, elkidwell@emory.edu with the subject line “**Spring 2023 Applicant: NC-Durham County CHA**”

*PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY