



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 will have the opportunity to assist with the planning and implementation of the department's new strategic plan and accreditation cycle. Strategy areas and objectives have been identified for the 2023-2027 Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) strategic plan. Next steps include identifying measures for what success looks like, determining how to incorporate equity into the implementation phase and communicating the contents of the plan to internal and external stakeholders. The student will conduct research around best practices for setting local health department strategic plan measures and equity and assist with health department staff interviews/focus groups around strategic plan implementation.

As a result of the most recent health department strength, weakness, opportunities, threats (SWOT) analysis, there are several opportunities for quality improvement projects in a public health setting. These include reviewing results of the DCoDPH April 2022 SWOT analysis for areas to focus, assisting with staff focus groups and writing up recommendations for prioritization/course of action for quality improvement projects.

Once DCoDPH completes its current local health department accreditation cycle in January 2023, planning will begin for the next cycle. This will require developing a new system to reorganize the accreditation documentation process to be more efficient and effective for DCoDPH staff and Leadership Team. The student will also work with health department accreditation leads to better align accreditation activity responsibilities with staff who are directly involved with providing the evidence.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a graduate public health student.

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

- Research local health department strategic plan for best practices around measuring success and equity.
- Identify best practices for communicating strategic plans with internal and external stakeholders.
- Assist with planning and implementing focus groups/interviews with DCoDPH staff at all levels around quality improvement and strategic plan implementation.
- Review DCoDPH SWOT analysis results and make recommendations for quality improvement projects to prioritize.
- Identify best practices for local health department accreditation documentation processes.
- Develop a list of recommendations to implement a more effective accreditation process.
- Attend/assist with 1 in person Partnership for a Healthy Durham committee activity.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMPETENCIES/SKILLS STUDENT MAY STRENGTHEN DURING PLACEMENT:

1. Policy Development/Engagement
2. Problem Solving
3. Effective Communication
4. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

TRAVEL: Yes (*There may be travel to related meetings and trainings, 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 DPH**"

*PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY