



Region IV Public Health Training Center

Region IV Public Health Training Center Pathways to Practice Scholar Field Placement Program North Carolina – Fall 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 WEBSITES: www.dcopublichealth.org

NUMBER OF POSITIONS AVAILABLE: 1 (Fall 2023)

DESIRED START DATES: September 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>).

The mission of the Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) is partnering 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:

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. As part of this process, Durham County has conducted door-to-door community surveys every three years since 2010 (2010, 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2022).

Durham County, including its health priorities has changed considerably between 2010 and 2022. The Durham County Department of Public Health is currently in a position to examine survey results, health outcomes and changes among health priorities during that time period.

The overall goal of the project is to build on work already done and research which community organizations have received funding to address top health priorities in Durham and where funds have been allocated. This would be a retrospective starting in 2010. Another task is to identify grassroots/community-rooted organizations working on health issues in Durham communities. This deep dive would also compare health outcomes by race and ethnicity within this timeframe to where/how funds have been allocated.

The long-term goal is to spur community conversation on whether our approach to addressing the top health priorities is working, if we need to change tactics and get funders together to discuss how money has been allocated to think more about equity and the impact funds have had on different communities.

Another component of the placement would be to compile data for a tentatively planned health equity dashboard. The goal is to have the dashboard show disaggregated data for poverty, life expectancy, diabetes, housing cost burden, healthcare coverage, etc. by race and ethnicity over time. This would involve collecting disaggregated Durham-specific health data from sources available.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Experience researching data from various data sources, working with Excel and strong writing skills

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

1. Review the 2020 Durham County Community Health Assessment executive summary and full report and 2022 State of the County Health report.
2. Review documents for work done around this topic to date.
3. Develop recommendations on how Durham County can better incorporate equity into its 2023 CHA report.
4. Research allocation of funding in Durham County for the top health priorities from 2010-2022 (affordable housing, access to care, mental health, poverty, HIV/STIs, substance use, education, obesity, diabetes and food access).

5. Hold key informant interviews with community stakeholders about community efforts to address health priorities and funding.
6. Create a spreadsheet and narrative document for findings.
7. Compile disaggregated health outcomes data and data sources.
8. Participate in at least 1 virtual Partnership for a Healthy Durham committee, Steering or Quarterly meeting.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMPETENCIES/SKILLS STUDENT MAY STRENGTHEN DURING PLACEMENT:

1. Policy Development/Engagement
2. Problem Solving
3. Data Analytics/Assessment/Data-based Decision Making
4. Public Health Science
5. Effective Communication
6. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

TRAVEL: *Yes (There may be travel to meetings and key informant interviews related to the project if they are held in person. All meetings and trainings would take place in Durham.)*

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

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:

Students must be masters or doctoral 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.](#)

- Please include a cover letter with the following:
 - The semesters you are applying for (Fall 2023)
 - The title of the position you are applying to
 - Citizenship or permanent resident visa status
- Please include a resume with the following:
 - The name and department of your degree program
 - Year of study
 - 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 (**resume, and cover letter** indicating the agency name and citizenship/visa status) to Elizabeth Kidwell, elkidwell@emory.edu with the subject line “**Fall 2023 Applicant: NC-Durham County**”

*PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY