



Region IV Public Health Training Center

Region IV Public Health Training Center Pathways to Practice Scholar Field Placement Program Tennessee – Fall Scholar Position

AGENCY: Tennessee Department of Health

POSITION TITLE: Tennessee Department of Health Intern

LOCATION: 710 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243

AGENCY WEBSITES: <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep.html>

NUMBER OF POSITIONS AVAILABLE: 1 (Fall 2024)

DESIRED START DATES: September 2024

* 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 (<https://r4phtc.org/>).

Note: This placement has the option to be 100% remote or conducted on a hybrid basis.

The mission of the Tennessee Department of Health is to protect, promote, and improve the health and well-being of all people in Tennessee. The Syndemic Coordination Program resides with the Communicable and Environmental Diseases and Emergency Preparedness Division within the HIV, STI and Viral Hepatitis Section and works to address the interconnected epidemics of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, substance use disorder, and viral hepatitis. Cross-cutting projects overseen by this team include overseeing syringe services programs across Tennessee, piloting a drug checking pilot to reduce overdose vulnerability, implementing integrated testing point-of-care for HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis, and hosting workshops to reduce stigma across the syndemic.

Tennessee communities that are heavily impacted by the HIV epidemic are also disproportionately impacted by the STI, viral hepatitis, and substance use disorder epidemics. To strategically address the overlapping HIV, STI, substance use disorder (SUD), and viral hepatitis epidemics, the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) launched its “End the Syndemic (ETS) Tennessee” initiative in 2020. This strategic planning process was supported by TDH and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) staff but driven by community input solicited through over 80 regional planning meetings and a statewide syndemic needs assessment. This statewide syndemic needs assessment captured the perspectives of over 1,014 consumers and providers in Tennessee. Ultimately, the findings from the statewide needs assessment and the ideas captured in the regional planning meetings was used to draft the End the Syndemic Tennessee Strategic Plan. This plan features four overarching goals and contains strategies, objectives, and action items to achieve the goals detailed below.

- Pillar 1 (Screen): Identify Tennesseans in need of prevention and treatment services across HIV, sexually transmitted infections, substance use disorder, and viral hepatitis
- Pillar 2 (Prevent): Increase access to appropriate HIV, sexually transmitted infection, substance use disorder, and viral hepatitis prevention services, including harm reduction
- Pillar 3 (Treat): Increase engagement in appropriate HIV, sexually transmitted infection, substance use disorder, and viral hepatitis treatment services
- Pillar 4 (Respond): Build resilient communities through coordinated care systems and by reducing social and structural barriers to health

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

This position will work within the HIV/STI/Viral Hepatitis Section as part of the Syndemic Coordination Program and will be focused on three core projects to help advance progress to achieving the goals of End the Syndemic Tennessee.

1. Launching the first statewide Harm Reduction Project ECHO, a tele-mentoring program designed to create communities of practice through didactic and case-based presentations featuring subject matter experts and health care providers.
2. Analyzing provider data captured in the first statewide syndemic needs assessment to publish a “End the Syndemic Tennessee Needs Assessment Provider Report.” This report will complement the previously published “End the Syndemic Tennessee Needs Assessment Consumer Report”
3. Developing community-facing education resources related to improving the health of people who use drugs to feature in the TN Harm Reduction Hub, a comprehensive technical and capacity building center aimed at expanding and improving harm reduction services in Tennessee.

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

- Assist in identifying subject matter experts and speakers to lead the Harm Reduction Project ECHO sessions
- Lead creating the Harm Reduction Project ECHO agenda by scheduling speakers, creating calendar invites, and obtaining speaker bios and slides
- Assist in recruiting people to Project ECHO sessions by developing and disseminating marketing materials that include information about how to join, featured speakers, topics, and credit hours
- Provide technical assistance to participants and speakers during Project ECHO sessions by monitoring the chat box and facilitating Q&A
- Ensure all sessions are recorded and uploaded to YouTube and the TN Harm Reduction Hub to expand reach of Project ECHO session
- Assist in the analysis of the TN syndemic needs assessment quantitative and qualitative data with a focus on provider perspectives and a comparison between provider and consumer responses
- Support writing and editing of The End the Syndemic Tennessee (ETS) Needs Assessment Provider Report
- Support coordination and publicity for release of the provider report
- Assist in developing and delivering presentations for internal partners and TDH leadership
- Contribute to creation of visually appealing summary of key findings materials to community/public/providers
- Support the recruitment of harm reduction programs staff and clients to be featured in an anti-stigma campaign

- Develop and disseminate digital and print materials to reduce stigma against people who use drugs
- Attend statewide SSP meetings to identify resource needs
- Create community-facing education materials to address identified needs

PUBLIC HEALTH COMPETENCIES/SKILLS STUDENT MAY STRENGTHEN DURING PLACEMENT:

1. Policy Development/Engagement
2. Cross-sector Partnerships
3. Data Analytics/Assessment/Data-based Decision Making

TRAVEL: No

POSITION TYPE: Region IV Public Health Training Center Field Placement

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.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:

Preference will be given to masters or doctoral level public health graduate students. Will also consider graduate Sociology and Social work students as well as undergraduate public health students (juniors/seniors) and part-time public health students (graduate). 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 2024)
 - 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
- Please also include with your application:
 - Unofficial transcript

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 25-40 hours a week for 8-16 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 (**unofficial transcript, resume, and cover letter** indicating the agency name and citizenship/visa status) to Elizabeth Kidwell, elkidwell@emory.edu with the subject line “**Fall 2024 Applicant: TN- TDH SCP**”

*PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY