



Region IV Public Health Training Center

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

AGENCY: Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay

POSITION TITLE: Seniors in Service Intern

LOCATION: 1306 W Sligh Ave, Tampa, Florida, 33604

AGENCY WEBSITES: WWW.SENIORSINSERVICE.ORG

NUMBER OF POSITIONS AVAILABLE: 1 (Spring 2025)

DESIRED START DATES: January 2025

* 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: The majority of the work will be done remotely with up to 10% being in person.

Seniors in Service is a nonprofit organization founded in 1984 that connects volunteers, especially those aged 55 and older, with opportunities to serve at-risk seniors, veterans, and children in the community. They aim to tackle community challenges through volunteering, benefiting people in Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco counties. Volunteers engage in meaningful activities like mentoring students, providing companionship to isolated seniors, and supporting veterans, ultimately impacting over 8,000 individuals annually.

Health Buddies, one of Seniors in Service's key programs, focuses on supporting adults with chronic conditions. Volunteers make phone calls to help clients manage their health, offering comfort, information, and emotional support. The program is designed to reduce hospital readmissions by empowering participants to take control of their health. The service is free for residents of Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco counties. It is also recognized nationally for its intergenerational effectiveness and sustainability.

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

In the field placement with Health Buddies, a public health student would work on projects focused on supporting older adults with chronic conditions through volunteer-driven initiatives. The primary objective is to reduce hospital readmissions by empowering seniors to manage their health via comforting, informative phone calls made by trained volunteers. The student would engage in program coordination, volunteer management, and community outreach to strengthen intergenerational connections. Additionally, they may assist with collecting and analyzing public health data, such as the

UCLA Loneliness Index and Kessler 6, to evaluate program outcomes and further develop strategies that promote social and emotional well-being in seniors.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Academic Background: 3.0 GPA or higher
- Communication Skills: Strong verbal and written communication skills to engage effectively with both seniors and volunteers.
- Organizational Skills: Ability to manage time well and coordinate multiple tasks, such as community outreach, and data collection.
- Data Analysis: Willingness to learn data collection and analysis methods.
- Empathy and Patience: A genuine interest in improving the well-being of older adults and a compassionate approach to working with a vulnerable population.
- Initiative: Ability to work independently and take initiative in completing tasks while supporting the Health Buddies program's objectives.
- Curiosity: A desire to learn and explore new ideas related to public health, gerontology, and community service, fostering innovation within the program.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Academic Background: 3.5 GPA or higher
- Communication Skills: Strong verbal and written communication skills to engage effectively with both seniors and volunteers.
- Organizational Skills: Ability to manage time well and coordinate multiple tasks, such as community outreach, and data collection.
- Data Analysis: Experience with public health tools, or a willingness to learn data collection and analysis methods.
- Empathy and Patience: A genuine interest in improving the well-being of older adults and a compassionate approach to working with a vulnerable population.
- Initiative: Ability to work independently and take initiative in completing tasks while supporting the Health Buddies program's objectives.
- Curiosity: A desire to learn and explore new ideas related to public health, gerontology, and community service, fostering innovation within the program.

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

- Data Collection and Analysis: Work with program coordinators to gather and analyze data from tools like the UCLA Loneliness Index and Kessler 6, helping to assess program impact and inform improvements.
- Program Evaluation: Contribute to monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of Health Buddies interventions, including tracking reductions in hospital readmissions and improvements in senior participants' mental well-being.
- Community Outreach: Help strengthen community partnerships by coordinating with local organizations, hospitals, and volunteer groups to expand Health Buddies' reach and resources.
- Resource Development: Assist in developing educational materials and resources for volunteers and seniors, including information on chronic disease management and available support services.
- Volunteer Coordination: Assist with the recruitment, training, and support of Health Buddies volunteers, ensuring they are prepared to make impactful phone calls to seniors. This task will

be essential for maintaining the program's smooth operation and ensuring effective volunteer engagement.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMPETENCIES/SKILLS STUDENT MAY STRENGTHEN DURING PLACEMENT:

1. Program Planning
2. Budgeting and Financial Management
3. Community Partnership /Engagement
4. Leadership and Systems Thinking/ Strategic Thinking
5. Problem Solving
6. Data Analytics/ Assessment/Data- based Decision Making
7. Effective Communication
8. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

TRAVEL: While the opportunity is primarily remote, there may be opportunities to attend tabling events and engaging with community partners.

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

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:

Preference will be given to masters or doctoral level public health graduate students. Undergraduate public health students as well as graduate students studying sociology, psychology, or social work may also be considered. [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 (Spring 2025)
 - 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 the following with your application:
 - Writing sample

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 15-40 hours a week for 10-12 weeks.

The program will accommodate varying availability while ensuring the student can contribute effectively to the Health Buddies program and meet their academic requirements.

**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 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/>

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit the required documents following specifications above (**writing sample, resume, and cover letter indicating the agency name and citizenship/visa status**) to Elizabeth Kidwell, elkidwell@emory.edu with the subject line “**Spring 2025 Applicant: FL Senior Service**”

*PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY