ASPPH Graduate Training Programs
Program Announcement

It's Your Future... It's Our Health

ASPPH/CDC Public Health Fellowship Program 2014

Nationally
Internationally

ASPPH - ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH
2014 Fellowship Opportunities
ASPPH/CDC Public Health Fellowship Program

Program Announcement

The **ASPPH/CDC Public Health Fellowship Program** is a collaborative effort between the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). One of the primary purposes of this effort is to “identify new approaches and opportunities for field experience in which graduate candidates and early career professionals with graduate degrees can practice applying skills and knowledge learned in the classroom and field.”

The Program’s purpose is to enable early career professionals, with graduate degrees in public health (Masters and Doctoral level), an opportunity to round out their academic training and gain practical public health experience. Fellows will benefit from: exposure to state-of-the-art technology and databases; acquisition of skills and knowledge to enhance their careers; and interaction with technical experts in their chosen fields.

Upon completion of the Program, fellows will have made useful contributions to projects of national public health importance that are related to the mission of the CDC.

1. **Eligibility**

To be eligible for this program, applicants must have received their Masters or Doctorate degree prior to the beginning of the fellowship (no later than May 2014) or within the last five years (no earlier than May 2009). Graduate degrees must come from an ASPPH member graduate school or program of public health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). (For a list of ASPPH members, see [www.ASPPH.org](http://www.ASPPH.org).) All applicants must be U.S. citizens or hold a visa permitting permanent residence (“Green Card”) in the U.S. to be eligible for the fellowship program.

2. **Period of Performance**

Fellowship positions are full-time opportunities for the duration of 12 months beginning in August 2014.

3. **Location**

Fellowship opportunities will be located either at CDC headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, or a CDC regional office. Locations are specified in the project descriptions. Selected fellows are required to relocate to the fellowship location; relocation expenses will not be reimbursed.
4. Funds Available

The annual training stipend for the fellowship positions is $44,890 for Masters level, and $49,581 for Doctoral level. The fellowship stipend is intended to cover all personal living expenses.

In addition to the fellowship stipend, fellows will have access to a $4,000 “fellowship allowance” that is intended to help cover health/dental/vision insurance premiums during the one year fellowship period. In addition, some positions may offer an additional “travel/training allowance” that may be used to cover project-related travel, tuition, journal subscriptions, association dues, etc. Not all positions will have a travel/training allowance.

5. Fellowship Opportunities Available

There are currently 3 fellowship positions available for the 2014 ASPPH/CDC Public Health Fellowship Program.

The following is a breakdown of fellowship opportunities at each Center/Institute/Program Office (C/I/O) at the CDC:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C/I/O</th>
<th>Number of Fellowships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To read full project descriptions for these positions, please see Section 10, and/or visit the ASPPH Training Programs Online Application System, as noted below.

6. Application Procedure

Each applicant may apply for up to three fellowship positions. Applications are to be completed online through the ASPPH Training Programs Online Application System at [http://fellowships.ASPPH.org/apply/index.cfm](http://fellowships.ASPPH.org/apply/index.cfm). All supporting, hardcopy, materials must be sent via traceable delivery service to the ASPPH office in Washington, DC. The materials needed to complete an application are detailed on the application form. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Please see Section 10 for detailed application instructions.

7. Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess the applicant’s ability to participate in the fellowship program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
<th>Maximum Points</th>
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...
8.  Review & Final Selection

By late-March a review committee will complete the review of the applications based on the criteria described above. Applicants may be contacted by the committee for additional information and/or clarification of information relevant to the application. All final selections will be made by the end of May. Those applicants chosen will be immediately notified by phone and email. All other applicants will also be notified by email.

9.  Application Instructions

The ASPPH Fellowship Online Application System is a centralized application service offering a secure, easy and convenient way for graduates of ASPPH member schools of public health to apply to all ASPPH Graduate Training Programs. The online application is also accessible through the ASPPH website at www.ASPPH.org.

http://fellowships.ASPPH.org/apply/index.cfm

To begin your online application, please click "Register Now" on the right side of the application page to create a password protected account.

Online Application

Each applicant may apply for up to three fellowship positions, as described in Section 6. In addition, you have the option to “Withdraw” your application as many times after submitting until the online application due date. Applications are reviewed only after the online application deadline has passed. Please note, if you choose to withdraw your application after having submitted it once, you must resubmit your application for it to be considered. To complete the online application, you will need the following:

- Resume/CV (saved as a PDF File)
- Name, email and phone number of two references
- An essay (1500 word max saved as a PDF File)

You must submit a separate essay for each position to which you are applying explaining your interests, strengths and qualifications for that particular position, and how it will benefit your long-term career plans in the field of public health.
**Online applications** must be submitted no later than midnight on:

**Thursday, February 6, 2014**

**Hardcopy Documents**
In addition to the online application, applicants need to collect **ONE** set of the following hardcopy documents and mail everything to ASPPH Graduate Training Programs in **ONE** packet:

- **Signature Page**
  Available upon submitting the online application. You will need to print, and sign. Please do not fold or staple pages.

- **Official Graduate Transcripts (School of Public Health only)**
  This will need to be in a sealed envelope issued by your school.

- **Two Letters of Recommendation (from the references provided in the online application)**
  Must be on a letter head with contact information and original signature. Does not need to be in a sealed envelope. Please request for your recommenders to not fold or staple recommendation letters.

- **A copy of your Green card, if you are not a US Citizen.**

**All hardcopy documents** must be received by ASPPH by 5:00 p.m. (Eastern) on:

**Friday, February 7, 2014**

Your application will be considered incomplete, and therefore will not be reviewed, if all hard copy documents have not been received by ASPPH by this deadline. Documents received after this deadline will render your application as ineligible and will not be considered for the program.

All hardcopy documents must be sent in one package, via traceable delivery service, to:
Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
Position #S-03/03-IRD14-01  
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Immunization Services Division, Office of the Director  
Atlanta, GA

Fellowship Title: Increasing Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Uptake Among Adolescent Girls and Boys

Project Focus Area:

NCIRD recognizes increased efforts are needed to reach the Healthy People 2020 target of 80% of adolescent girls receiving ≥3 doses of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. HPV vaccination coverage lags behind coverage for other recommended adolescent vaccines and has recently leveled off while coverage for other vaccines increases. Many adolescents who begin the HPV vaccination series do not receive all three doses, leaving them with suboptimal disease protection. The Immunization Services Division has a number of projects underway related to increasing HPV coverage, including assessing vaccine uptake, evaluating effectiveness of interventions to raise coverage, seeking to understand factors resulting in coverage disparities, and assisting state health departments to improve partnerships and communication strategies related to HPV vaccination. There will be opportunities to analyze data related to adolescent vaccination, e.g. the National Immunization Survey (NIS)-Teen, HEDIS (Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set), or data from ongoing research, evaluation, and quality improvement projects. In addition to data analysis, there will be opportunities to be involved in collaboration with other staff in different aspects of study design and potential involvement in policy-related projects.

Center Background and Objectives:

The mission of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) is to prevent disease, disability, and death from vaccine preventable diseases in children, adolescents, and adults. Together with partners in international, other federal, and state governmental agencies and diverse non-governmental organizations, NCIRD provides leadership to ensure that effective and safe vaccines reach those who need them, that new and improved vaccines are developed, that research related to vaccine safety is supported, and that efficient mechanisms for the delivery of vaccines are incorporated into immunization programs. NCIRD designs, develops, and implements operations research, information systems, and public education efforts related to immunization programs, and conducts epidemiologic surveillance and research on vaccine preventable diseases and on vaccine safety. On behalf of state and other public immunization programs, NCIRD provides technical, administrative, and programmatic support.

Project Description:

The selected ASPPH fellow will participate in a project designed to analyze information collected from one or more projects currently underway in the division.

The specific objectives of the fellowship assignment will be to:
• Assist with coordination and implementation of the NCIRD strategy to improve HPV vaccination coverage levels.
• Design and conduct an analysis. Specific potential analyses include examining challenges and barriers to completing the HPV vaccination series, evaluating knowledge and attitudes among parents of adolescents, and describing results of innovative communication campaigns to promote HPV vaccine.
• Participate in the development of a manuscript that will be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.
• Participate in other projects related to adolescent vaccination.

Travel:

Project-related travel, training, and presentation of findings at one or more national conferences are anticipated.

Required & or Desired Skills or Knowledge:

• The candidate should have good knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of public health, epidemiology, and biostatistics.
• The candidate should have good interpersonal skills, the ability to carry out research under supervision and the ability to work effectively with a group of scientists and health care professionals with diverse backgrounds.
• Experience and aptitude with statistical software packages including SAS will be useful.
• Good writing and communication skills are required.

Expected Benefits:

• The fellow will gain experience in working with the CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases and as a result will become conversant with immunization programs and practices and related public health issues.
• The fellow will develop new skills and improve existing ones in addressing concrete public health issues and in participating in health services research and evaluation.
• The academic institution will benefit by strengthening the link between the research capacity of the school and the public health services being carried out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Period of Assignment:

The term of each fellowship is 12 months, with an option to renew for an additional 12 months subject to the availability of funding.
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Immunization Services Division, Program Operations Branch
Atlanta, GA

Fellowship Title: Improving the U.S. Vaccine Delivery System by Providing Programmatic Support to State and Local Immunization Programs and Conducting Programmatic Research and Evaluation

Project Focus Area:
This fellowship will focus on supporting and evaluating the vaccine delivery system with the ultimate goal of achieving and sustaining high immunization coverage levels.

Center Background and Objectives:
The mission of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) is to prevent disease, disability, and death from vaccine-preventable diseases in children, adolescents, and adults. Together with partners in international, other federal, and state governmental agencies and diverse non-governmental organizations, NCIRD provides leadership to ensure that effective and safe vaccines reach those who need them, that new and improved vaccines are developed, that research related to vaccine safety is supported, and that efficient mechanisms for the delivery of vaccines are incorporated into immunization programs. NCIRD designs, develops, and implements operations research, information systems, and public education efforts related to immunization programs, and conducts epidemiologic surveillance and research on vaccine-preventable diseases and on vaccine safety. On behalf of state and other public immunization programs, NCIRD provides technical, administrative, and programmatic support.

The mission of the Immunization Services Division is to protect individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases through provision of federal funds and contracts to purchase vaccine, the provision of technical and financial support of immunization programs, provider and public education, and evaluation and research. The activities of the division include providing leadership, expertise, education, and training on various aspects of the science of developing evidence-based guidelines and recommendations for preventing and controlling infectious diseases. There is collaboration and coordination on efforts with various entities within and outside the CDC, including the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which are using evidence-based approaches for developing guidelines and recommendations.

The Program Operations Branch within the Immunization Services Division is primarily responsible for working directly with 64 state, territorial, and local immunization programs (referred to as awardees) that have received CDC funding awards for immunization activities. In partnership with these awardees, the Branch supports the development, promotion, and evaluation of immunization strategies aimed at achieving and sustaining high immunization coverage levels. The Branch is also responsible for conducting immunization-related research and evaluation. Key Branch activities include the following:

- Monitoring implementation of activities supported by the funds awarded to 64 awardees
• Providing policy guidance and oversight for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, which provides federally-supplied vaccine for eligible children
• Providing technical assistance and oversight of AFIX, a quality improvement program used by immunization awardees to incorporate key strategies to improve health care providers’ immunization services delivery and raise vaccination coverage levels
• Providing technical assistance to awardees on all program components, including the requirement that all awardees perform periodic program evaluation
• Participating in pandemic influenza preparedness activities, in partnership with awardees
• Conducting and managing immunization-related research and evaluation projects
• Assuring accountability for use of vaccines and monitoring awardee performance

Project Description:

The selected ASPH fellow will work with immunization awardees and multiple Program Operations Branch subject matter experts to carry out a variety of projects and activities within the Branch. Backgrounds of Branch members are diverse (medical, public health practice, public health policy, epidemiology, statistics), and all are available to provide technical assistance to the selected fellow.

The following are examples of projects the fellow may undertake:

- **Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, eXchange Program (AFIX):**
  - Design and provide technical assistance to the develop site visit data collection tools used by awardees for tracking and managing AFIX data
  - Assist in the review and development of AFIX program policies and procedural guidance.
  - Participate in a planned AFIX evaluation project with the potential to publish the findings in a peer-reviewed journal.
  - Participate in the analysis and interpretation of annual AFIX program data. The data is intended to track awardee performance and changes in the quality of provider immunization practices and coverage rates.
  - Participate in the coordination and development of an integration logic guidance to enable immunization awardees to rely on IIS for their coverage assessments.
  - Help develop an AFIX communication plan.

- **Immunization Program Evaluation requirement:**
  - Participate in the 2014-2017 Immunization Program Evaluation cooperative agreement to evaluate mid and long term impact of 2013 VFC in Action Training
  - Develop survey to assess provider-level knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors (KABB) related to vaccine storage and handling activities and outcomes primarily focused on education and training and additional guidance materials as needed
  - Assist awardees with planning and implementing data collection from providers
  - Conduct analyses, data management, monitoring and reporting of immunization program evaluation data collected from 3 levels: CDC, awardee and provider
  - Assist in the review of education and training materials focused on vaccine storage and handling provided by awardees

- **Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program:**
  - Assess existing VFC-related data from site visits to immunization programs in order to create an VFC annual report that could be updated annually and could be used for communications with leadership and immunization awardees
It is anticipated that the fellow will design and conduct at least one analysis, with the potential to publish findings in a peer-reviewed journal. As time allows, the fellow may also participate in other projects within and external to the Branch.

Travel:

- Project-related travel, training, and presentation of findings to external partners or a scientific conference are anticipated.

Required & or Desired Skills or Knowledge:

The candidate should possess:

- knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of public health practice, epidemiology, and biostatistics.
- an understanding or interest in public health policy and evaluation methodology.
- good interpersonal skills, the ability to coordinate and carry out different program activities under supervision, and the ability to work effectively with a diverse group of scientists, public health practitioners, and health care professionals.
- good writing and communication skills.

Experience and aptitude with data management and statistical software packages, especially SAS, would be useful.

Expected Benefits:

- The fellow will gain experience in working with the CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases and as a result will become conversant with immunization programs and practices and related public health issues.

- The fellow will develop new skills and improve existing ones in addressing concrete public health issues and in participating in health services research and evaluation.

- The academic institution will benefit by strengthening the link between the research capacity of the school and the public health services being carried out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Period of Assignment:

The term of each fellowship is 12 months, with an option to renew for an additional 12 months subject to the availability of funding.
Position #S-03/03-OSH14-01
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
Division of Respiratory Disease Studies (DRDS)
Morgantown, WV

Fellowship Title: BRFSS data analyst

Project Focus Area:
Occupational lung disease surveillance

Center Background and Objectives:

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is the federal agency responsible for conducting epidemiologic and clinical research and making recommendations for the prevention of work-related injury and illness. NIOSH is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the Department of Health and Human Services.

The objective of the fellowship program is to provide public health graduate and post-doctoral students, preventive medicine residents and post-residents, and early career professionals the opportunity to gain hands-on public health and prevention experience.

Project Description:

The Fellow will analyze the 2010, 2011, and 2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Asthma Call-back Survey (ACBS) data on work-related asthma. BRFSS survey has a complex operation. Each state health department uses random digit dialing to select samples of adults in households with telephones. The samples represent each state's civilian, non-institutionalized, adult population. Most states used three-stage cluster sampling based on the Waksberg method; other states used simple random, stratified random, or other sampling designs.

The Fellow will become familiar with branch activities related to work-related asthma. Examples of tasks include: 1) familiarization with work-related asthma and the Asthma Call-back Survey; 2) conducting three separate descriptive and epidemiologic analyses of data on the proportion of asthma that is diagnosed as work-related by a health professional and the proportion of asthma that is described as caused or made worse by work for 2010, 2011, and 2012 of data; 4) summarizing results of data analyses; presenting the results to the Branch; and preparing written reports of findings; 5) conducting literature searches; 6) develop and publish peer-reviewed journal article.

The specific objective of the project: To estimate the proportion of work-related asthma and possible work-related asthma for 2010, 2011, and 2012 among states conducting the Asthma Call-back Survey in all three years in order to determine the impact methodological changes in the administration of the Asthma Call-back Survey have on the estimates of work-related asthma. In 2011 data, a new weighting methodology was employed and in 2012 data, results on cell-phone sampling were released.
Travel:

Training on-site

**Required & or Desired Skills or Knowledge:**

Experience in database management and data analysis is desirable. Especially helpful would be experience with weighted data from complex sample design surveys. Previous experience working with state or local health departments and with CDC projects is a significant plus. Applicants must be proficient with standard Microsoft Office (Microsoft Corp.) products and SAS (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC) statistical software. More advanced experience with SAS software is a plus. Careful attention to detail and good organizational skills are a must. Strong communication and inter-personal skills are highly-desirable as this position requires frequent communication regarding highly technical matters with CDC epidemiologists.

**Expected Benefits:**

The Fellow will gain experience and professional development so that the fields of public health and preventive medicine in the U.S. are strengthened. Upon completion of a fellowship, the applicant will have:

1) Received training in occupational health surveillance methods at the national level;
2) gained first-hand knowledge of the nation’s public health system;
3) become well-versed in the policy issues affecting the public health infrastructure; and
4) personally contributed to an initiative of national importance related to the mission of the CDC.

**Period of Assignment:**

The term of each fellowship is 12 months, with an option to renew for an additional 12 months subject to the availability of funding.