UD Partnership for Healthy Communities Spring 2021 Opportunities:

SHIP Student Undergraduate Fellow(s)

Organization Profile/Position Overview

The mission of the UD Partnership for Healthy Communities (PHC) is to align and strengthen University of Delaware research, educational, and service capabilities to improve the health and well-being of Delaware communities and beyond through effective community partnerships. Additionally, it is the goal of the partnership to contribute to the personal, educational, and career development of University of Delaware students. To that end, PHC is offering a student practicum experience this spring. Students will work with PHC in their project management of Delaware’s State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). Students working as part of PHC’s SHIP Student Fellowship program will have the opportunity to engage with 100+ Delaware stakeholders and 1) develop SHIP communications materials and provide support to SHIP-led meetings, 2) attend individual stakeholder meetings to observe and record progress, and, 3) help support collaborative stakeholder engagement and data collection to revise priorities and strategies within the five-year plan as new public health priorities surface, current ones are addressed, and/or new evidence-based strategies emerge over time.

Project: Delaware State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)

The purpose of the State Health Improvement Plan is to describe how the Division of Public Health within Delaware Health and Social Services and the community it serves will work together to improve the health of Delaware’s population. Communities, stakeholders, and partners can use the SHIP to set priorities, direct the use of resources, and develop and implement projects, programs and policies. The SHIP’s four priority areas, identified through a State Health Needs Assessment (SHNA) process, are: chronic disease, maternal and child health, substance use disorder and mental health. System-wide recommendations call for policy, systems and environmental change, strategies to address the social determinants of health, the promotion of health in all policies, and the incorporation of social marketing.

This may include activities such as preparing “At-a-Glance” framing materials with SHIP stakeholder spotlights and case studies on how current or planned strategies to address SHIP priority areas and/or system-wide recommendations are having impact and/or how strategies may intersect to have shared impact across population health outcomes. This may include research to describe the prevalence and impact of SHIP priority health areas (i.e. chronic disease, maternal and child health, substance use...
disorder, mental health) or system-wide recommendations (i.e. social determinants of health), compiling and translating research on evidence related to population health approaches to SHIP priorities and system-wide recommendations (i.e. policy, system and environmental approaches, addressing social determinants of health, utilizing a Health in All Policies approach, incorporating social marketing). Students may have the opportunity to also present these documents and their research on them as part of a SHIP statewide webinar.

Fellowship Responsibilities and Learning Objectives

○ Fellows are required to attend some stakeholder meetings and observe and input data into the STAT tool.
○ Fellows are required to complete a series of “At-A-Glance” documents
○ Fellows are required to assist with daily SHIP Partnership activities as needed.
○ Fellows are required to attend weekly check-in/discussion.
○ Fellows are required to develop, coordinate and present materials as part of a Delaware SHIP Stakeholder Statewide Webinar Presentation at the end of their fellowship

Learning Objectives:

Throughout the semester, fellows will work on projects that will help them understand the importance of cross-sector stakeholder engagement in population health improvement, practice framing and communications for health equity and population health and identify strategies that have the most potential for creating widespread change and health improvement.

○ Fellows will gain a deeper understanding of basic concepts in public health
○ Fellows will gain a deeper understanding of different SHIP priority health areas (i.e. chronic disease, maternal and child health, substance use disorder, mental health).
○ Fellows will learn how to identify critical stakeholders for the planning, implementation and evaluation of public health programs, policies and interventions.
○ Fellows will learn how to utilize skills to communicate effectively with a variety of stakeholders
○ Fellows will learn how to conduct research and write compelling At-a-Glance content
○ Fellows will receive training on STAT Tool
○ Fellows will receive training on compiling and translating research on evidence related to policy, system and environmental (PSE) approaches.

Fellowship Benefits

○ Fellows will participate in meetings, networking events, and have the opportunity to interact with SHIP Partners from health and non-health sectors
○ Paid rate of $12.50/hour
○ Time commitment of 5-10 hrs/week

Desired Qualifications:
○ Minimum 2.9 GPA  
○ Open to students who are currently working toward a bachelor degree  
○ Excellent oral and written communication skills  
○ Ability to comprehend, analyze and interpret complex online and printed material  
○ Task-oriented, able to work independently and self-starting  
○ Working knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite

Application Procedure

Interested students should apply via the PHC application form and by sending resume (including GPA) and cover letter to phc-info@udel.edu no later than Feb.7, 2021. Please describe in your cover letter why you believe you would be a good fit for the position.