

Public Health Fellowship in Government 2020

www.apha.org/fellowship



The American Public Health Association announces a call for applications for the APHA Public Health Fellowship in Government. This fellowship is sponsored by an unrestricted grant from the Aetna Foundation.

APHA is looking for candidates with strong public health credentials who wish to spend one year in Washington, D.C., working in a **CONGRESSIONAL** office. There is a critical need for public health **PROFESSIONALS**, including practitioners and researchers, to engage in the federal policy process. The fellow will have the opportunity to see first hand how public policy impacts public health and to offer their public health expertise to policymakers. This hands-on **EXPERIENCE** will be invaluable to the field of public health, policymakers and the public health fellow.

The fellows will have the option of serving on the personal staff of a member of Congress or a congressional committee, working on legislative and policy issues such as creating healthy communities, improving health equity, addressing environmental health concerns, population health or the social determinants of health. Much of the work developing public policy happens at the staff level, where these critical issues are not well-understood or incorporated into the discussion. The fellow will have the opportunity to make an impact and improve the health of the public.

Program Description: The fellowship runs from January-December 2020. The fellow will participate in an orientation at the beginning of the fellowship. The fellow will choose his/her placement and spend the rest of the fellowship year on the staff of a congressional office.

Program Purpose: There is a critical need for public health professionals, including practitioners and researchers, to engage in the federal policy process to assure that sound public health science and evidence is incorporated into public policy. The fellow will have the opportunity to see firsthand how policy impacts public health and to offer their public health expertise to policymakers in an effort to increase evidence-based decision-making, which will enhance the health of the public. There is no other program to bring public health professionals to Washington for a year and gain this type of experience. This hands-on opportunity will be invaluable to the field of public health, policymakers, the public health fellow and the goal of healthy communities.

The fellowship aims to:

- Establish and nurture critical links between federal decision-makers and public health professionals;
- Educate public health professionals about the legislative process and skills necessary to be successful including the ability to translate complex public health issues into legislative, regulatory and policy initiatives;
- Increase the visibility and impact of public health professionals in the policy arena;
- Increase attention to and focus on the social determinants of health and the goal of improving health equity and creating healthy communities;
- Support the inclusion of sound public health science in policy; and
- Create a culture of policy engagement for public health professionals.

Application: The process of applying for this fellowship is an open competition. A written application is required. A committee of APHA leaders and former APHA fellows will review the applications and select the finalists. The application packet, including the letters of recommendation, is due to APHA by September 4, 2019. Finalists will be brought to APHA headquarters in Washington, D.C., for an interview. The 2020 fellow must be prepared to move to the Washington, D.C., by the beginning of January 2020. The application and additional information are available at www.apha.org/fellowship.

Eligibility: The fellowship is open to all APHA members, including state and local health department staff, medical, nurse or public health practitioners, nongovernmental agency staff and teachers/researchers/academics who have a demonstrated interest and ability in policy. All candidates must have a master's degree or a doctorate (or equivalent) in public health or related discipline and five years or more of professional experience in a public health setting. Internships, graduate assistantships and residencies do not count toward the five year requirement. In addition, all candidates must be U.S. citizens (including citizens of U.S. territories) or a permanent resident of the U.S. (Note: Federal employees are not eligible for the fellowship.)

Strong professional credentials, ability to articulate a vision and understanding of public health science as well as outstanding letters of reference are the primary considerations for receipt of the fellowship. Candidates must also demonstrate a strong interest in applying their knowledge toward the solution of societal problems by focusing on population health.

Candidates should be aware of how public health science affects a broad range of non-scientific issues and display sensitivity to political, economic and social factors. They should exhibit willingness and flexibility to tackle problems beyond the scope of their specific area(s) of public health expertise, and show a commitment to apply their

expertise to improve population health. Candidates must be articulate and able to communicate well, both verbally and in writing, to audiences not familiar with public health and demonstrate the ability to work effectively with decision-makers and others outside the public health community. It is important that candidates display maturity and self-direction, with the capacity, initiative and flexibility to work well independently and in groups. In addition, candidates must be aware of possible conflict of interest concerns.

Placement: Fellows will work during their fellowship year as staff to a member of Congress or a congressional committee, on topics relating generally to public health and health equity. Fellows are free agents and will determine their own congressional placement. The fellow will be expected to attend the 2020 APHA Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

Stipends and Fellowship Support: The APHA fellow will receive a stipend of \$80,000 for the year, and an additional \$6,000 is available for travel and other related costs (including moving costs and the costs of attending the APHA Annual Meeting).

Conflict of Interest: In cases where there may be a real or perceived conflict of interest in connection with a fellow's placement, the appropriate congressional ethics committee must be contacted and any guidelines and/or requirements issued from that committee must be adhered to.



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