

UNMC, College of Public Health
Applied Practice Experience (APEX) Opportunities

Partner organization name: East Central District Health Department

Partner organization website: www.ecdhd.ne.gov

Partner organization brief description: East Central District Health Department is a state-approved district health department that provides public health services to a four-county service area: Boone, Colfax, Nance and Platte. We offer a wide variety of programs to help us live out our mission and vision. We are proud to work with community partners and coalitions to help improve the health of our communities.

Partner organization's point of contact name and email:

Molly Pofahl; mpofahl@ecdhd.ne.gov

Description of partner organization's priority opportunities (APEX activities):

- **Workforce Development** – Student will find and implement opportunities to grow the health department staff based on ECDHD's Workforce Development Plan. This will be an ongoing effort throughout the student's APEX.
- **Back to School Bash** – Student will work with ECDHD's Community Health Workers to plan and execute ECDHD's annual Back to School Bash for the community. The main focus of this event is to immunize school-aged children and provide resources for attendees. Student will also have the opportunity to attend several outreach events throughout the summer, if interested.
- **Environmental Health** – Student will have creative space to help expand ECDHD's environmental health program and work to assist the project coordinator in executing the workplan. May-August
- **Food Security** – Student will work with ECDHD staff and community partners to address food security—a priority identified based on Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) data. This is an ongoing effort and will be a focus throughout the summer.
- **Epi Investigations** – Student will have the opportunity to work with ECDHD's Public Health Nurse and Infectious Disease Coordinator to investigate diseases and trends. ECDHD is also working on implementing a dashboard that the student can help with.

Timeframe of proposed activities: The activities will be worked on throughout the student's APEX time. The student does not have to do ALL of the activities listed, but pick whatever interests them.

Benefit of proposed activities to partner organization:

Workforce Development – Will help the Director by cutting down on time spent on researching appropriate workforce development trainings that align with the health department's current strategic plan

*Note—An affiliation agreement will be required prior to student engagement

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Back to School – This will help the ECDHD staff with all of the ‘last minute’ planning things that will need to be done as ECDHD is already at capacity.

Environmental Health – This will help the project coordinator to build capacity and give the environmental program a chance to get off the ground.

Food Security – This will take a load off of the organizations that are working on this initiative. This will help the community as a whole.

Epi Investigations – This will allow for increased capacity for our epi team.

Benefit of proposed activities to the student:

Workforce Development – Student will gain hands-on experience with administrative tasks and learn the importance of a competent and trained health department.

Back to school – Student will learn how to engage community members and how these events promote inclusion while also promoting health at the same time.

Environmental health – Student will learn practical skills about grant workplans and budgets. They will gain hands-on experience in executing a real grant workplan.

Food Security – Student will learn about the importance of working with community leaders to do the most good. Student will be able to help with an already well-established food distribution program.

Epi Investigations – Students will learn about disease burden, the process of case investigation for different communicable diseases and gain experience interviewing patients and using their critical thinking skills.

Skill sets of students requested:

Professional communication (written and verbal)

Organization

Problem-solving skills

Some data analysis required

Public speaking skills

Passion for community health

Additional Information (format of preferred engagement-virtual, hybrid, in-person; partner organization’s location):

Hybrid—4321 41st Ave Columbus, NE 68601 (approx. 1 hr 10 minutes from Omaha)

For students who meet eligibility criteria, this opportunity is available for funding supported by the COPH. For more information, reach out to juquigley@unmc.edu or review orientation slides 13 – 15.

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