

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

Partner organization name: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

Address: 3131 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68510

Partner Organization website: www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/departments/health-department

Partner organization brief description: The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department takes great pride in a workforce that consistently responds to the public health challenges and emerging health issues that face our diverse and growing community. Our mission is to protect and promote the public's health. This includes supporting healthy lifestyles and disease prevention strategies; ensuring appropriate access to health care; addressing disparities in health outcomes; minimizing exposure to environmental hazards; and maintaining clean, healthy air, water, and wastewater.

Partner organization's point of contact name and email:

Program Contact: Angelina Stovall-Amos astovall-amos@lincoln.ne.gov, 402-441-6244

Rachel Redepenning rredenpenning@lincoln.ne.gov, 402-441-8071

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

- Actively engage in LLCHD staff meetings and offer program support.
- **Main project: Youth Sports Sign-Up Event**
This initiative stems from the 2022 Lincoln-Lancaster County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which identified affordable youth activities as a key strategy under the chronic disease prevention priority. By expanding access to affordable sports programs, the event aims to reduce barriers to physical activity, promoting healthier lifestyles and improved long-term health outcomes for youth. This includes the following activities:
 - Assist Staff with Planning, Coordinating, and Evaluating Fall's Youth Sports Signup Event
 - Use the Youth Sports Sign-Up Event Toolkit to manage event logistics, including venue reservations, volunteer coordination, and vendor recruitment.
 - Conduct post-event evaluations to identify gaps, refine future events, and improve access to youth sports as a chronic disease prevention strategy.
 - Help Strengthen, Support, and Mobilize Communities and Partnerships
 - Collaborate with partners to promote the Sports Equipment Drive, ensuring donated items are collected, sorted, and distributed effectively.
 - Collaborate with Parks & Recreation, schools, and community partners to promote equitable access to youth sports.
 - Effectively Communicate to Inform and Educate
 - Create educational and promotional materials (flyers, social media posts, and newsletter articles) to raise awareness.
 - Ensure materials are accessible by having them translated into common community languages and distributing them at key locations such as food banks, youth activity centers, and cultural centers.
 - Engage with LLCHD's communication manager, community organizations, and local media to expand outreach.
 - Oversee the creation of educational resources on sports benefits, aiming to reduce barriers to participation for underserved populations.

Timeframe of proposed activities:

May 2025 – August 2025

Benefits of proposed activities to partner organization:

By facilitating this event, the APEX student will support our department's mission to:

- Increase Youth Sports Access: Ensuring children, particularly those from underserved communities, can access affordable and inclusive sports opportunities.
- Promote Physical Activity & Chronic Disease Prevention: Encouraging active lifestyles to reduce risks associated with obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular conditions.
- Enhance Cultural Inclusion: Providing language support, culturally appropriate communication, and sports programs that align with diverse community needs.
- Strengthen Community Partnerships: Building stronger ties with local schools, community organizations, and vendors to sustain future events.

Benefits of proposed activities to the student:

The APEX student will gain:

- Practical Public Health Experience: Applying project management, communication, and community engagement skills in a real-world setting.
- Leadership Development: Coordinating volunteers, leading planning efforts, and serving as the primary point of contact for vendors and partners.
- Cultural Competency Skills: Engaging with diverse populations, learning to adapt communication materials, and addressing community-specific health equity needs.
- Networking Opportunities: Building relationships with public health professionals, community organizations, and educational institutions.
- Evaluation & Assessment Skills: Developing and analyzing post-event surveys to measure event success and identify areas for improvement.

Skill sets of students requested:

- Strong Communication Skills: Ability to engage diverse audiences, draft clear promotional materials, and build rapport with partners.
- Organizational Skills: Capable of managing multiple tasks, timelines, and resources simultaneously.
- Project Management Experience: Understanding of event planning processes, task delegation, and timeline management.
- Cultural Awareness & Inclusivity: Comfortable working with multilingual and multicultural communities; experience utilizing translation and interpretation services is a plus.
- Collaboration Skills: Ability to work effectively with volunteers, vendors, and internal teams.
- Adaptability & Problem-Solving: Willingness to troubleshoot issues during planning and event execution.

Additional information (format of preferred engagement – virtual, hybrid, in-person; partner organization's location):

In-person engagement strongly preferred. Hybrid options possible.

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.