

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

Partner organization name: NALHD (Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors)

Partner organization website: www.nalhd.org

Partner organization brief description:

NALHD amplifies the impact of local public health departments at the state and local levels. Through NALHD, members leverage resources, pursue organizational excellence, facilitate peer learning, build collaborative systems, and advocate in support of public health policy. NALHD's dynamic initiatives help members address a range of factors that impact Nebraskans' ability to be healthy and well. NALHD's members' jurisdictions cover all 93 counties in Nebraska.

Partner organization's point of contact name and email:

Sondra Nicholson, snicholson@nalhd.org 402-904-7946

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

1. Language Access and Accessibility on Digital Platforms:
A literature review and summary white paper on the current state of the science of language access and accessibility, especially on digital platforms (what are current best practices for decision making and developing accessible content? What are current and best tools to evaluate accessibility and language access. As a second phase, this project can also include a review of NALHD's and LHDs' websites and other digital communication platforms to evaluate and identify opportunities to implement these concepts/best practices.

2. Report of Partnerships with Managed Care Organizations:
Public health infrastructure and capacity in Nebraska and nationwide is dependent on funding to public health agencies. Current funding is not enough to fully provide the foundational public health services. In Nebraska, NALHD has partnered with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations to build capacity and infrastructure and address social determinants of health (SDOH) needs and challenges. This partnership is a unique and incredibly promising. Writing of a peer-reviewed article of our unique partnership with Managed Care Organizations including how it started, what results came from it, etc. A clearly articulated description of this work (the funding mechanisms, the work it has enabled, the evidence of improved health outcomes, the need for data to be even more successful) will help to maintain and build support these projects in NE and perhaps be replicated in other states.
 - Will require close collaboration with COPH Faculty member, Dr. Dave Palm.
 - Summarizing of funded initiatives will be an important first step
 - Need to identify what health outcomes may be pointed to as a direct or indirect result of investments
 - The scope of this work may exceed an APEX, which will require early planning to carve out an appropriate size scope that does align. This project could lay groundwork toward a Capstone project that is also publishable

Timeframe of proposed activities:

As soon as the student can start through the end of Summer 2024.

Benefit of proposed activities to partner organization:

For the first project: Health literacy is a cornerstone of NALHD's work. Language access and accessibility are important factors for local health departments to reach at-risk populations and

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

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positively impact health outcomes. NALHD wants to accelerate adoption of current best practices and tools for digital platforms to amplify local health department work.

For the second project:

We are seeking a write up that describes our partnership and situates it in the context of other collaborations that are or should be happening in other states.

Benefit of proposed activities to the student:

Learning cutting edge tools and best practices to apply to future work.

Developing relationships with local health department staff and Directors for future work.

Deeper dive into health literacy and impacts of unique partnerships on public health.

Co-authorship in a peer reviewed publication.

Skill sets of students requested:

Self-motivated & reliable

Great communicator and writer

Capable of conducting literature searches, including the review of grey literature

Knowledge of managed care systems and Medicaid

Additional Information

We are located in Lincoln, NE and would like to have the students onsite. We can accommodate a hybrid arrangement.