

Environmental Public Health Tracking: Peer-to-Peer Fellowship Program

Call for Applications:

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), with support from CDC's National Center for Environmental Health, is pleased to announce a call for applications for the 2016-2017 Environmental Public Health Tracking: Peer-to-Peer Fellowship Program. Designed to enhance capacity of states and territories not currently funded as part of CDC's National Tracking Network, the fellowship program will provide up to four (4) state and/or territorial health agencies (S/THAs) with the opportunity to:

- Gain one-on-one, in-depth mentorship from a current Tracking Program grantee.
- Learn key tracking techniques and IT infrastructure that can be modeled around the needs and environmental challenges specific to the fellow's state.
- Build peer networks across state and territorial health agencies.
- Join the national tracking conversation.

After participating in the fellowship, Kentucky, Louisiana and Michigan received funding to implement state tracking networks as part of the CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network.

Fellowship Activity and Deliverables

ASTHO Tracking Fellows will pursue activities that strengthen their capacity to conduct and collaborate on Tracking Program activities. Prospective fellows will:

- Propose and implement a small tracking project either as new or part of an existing initiative in their states. To view examples of past projects, visit <http://www.astho.org/programs/environmental-health/tracking-environmental-health-hazards/>.
- Be matched with a grantee mentor to learn firsthand planning and capacity building elements for an effective tracking program startup. Topics may include:
 - Portal development and standards.
 - Metadata creation and submission.
 - Challenges surrounding data acquisition.
 - Program marketing and risk communication.
- Complete a written report (approx. 5-7 pages) on their learning experiences, how tracking could be useful in their states, and the results or projected outcome of their pilot projects. Final reports will be due at the end of the project year (June 30, 2017) and made available for posting on ASTHO's website and distribution to ASTHO members.

What Past Fellows Are Saying

"The task of creating an EPHT program from scratch is daunting at best, and the willingness of the tracking community to support and encourage programs still in their infancy is not only obvious, but welcomed."

"This program has helped to gain appreciation of the scope of EPHT."

"I came away with a much better understanding of what EPHT is and how it works at the state after completing this fellowship."

"Every part of the fellowship aided me in preparing my state to join the National EPHT Network."

Travel Scholarships

Each recipient will receive a travel scholarship to:

- Visit to their grantee mentor to gain first-hand knowledge of tracking program activities.
- Attend a CDC Tracking Workshop and network with state environmental health programs and CDC grantees.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the ASTHO Tracking Fellowship Program, the applicant must:

- Be a public health or environmental health professional, epidemiologist, or other related program manager from a S/THA not currently funded as part of CDC's National Tracking Program.
 - Practitioners from city, county, and tribal health departments with demonstrated intent to collaborate with a non-funded S/THA on Tracking Program activities are eligible to apply.
 - Universities may apply as bona fide agents of a state or territorial health agency. The bona fide agent is required to submit a letter from the non-funded S/THA as documentation of the status. Please note that the health department being represented would be the direct recipient of the award.
 - Former ASTHO Tracking Fellows are eligible to apply for the 2016-2017 program.
- Demonstrate interest and knowledge of environmental epidemiology/surveillance, environmental public health tracking, or related activities.
- Propose a project that is reasonable in scope, complements current activities at the S/THA, and advances the goals of the National Tracking Program.
- Demonstrate commitment to the proposed effort, including how the fellowship builds the capacity for that S/THA to promote and collaborate with peers on Tracking Program activities.
- Be willing to share resources and lessons learned with ASTHO, CDC, and S/THAs across the country.

Application Process

The Fellowship application package should contain the following elements:

1. Completed application form.
2. Project narrative and statement of need.
 - a. Introduction/background. Include motivation for participating in fellowship program and how knowledge gained will be applied.
 - b. Pilot project description, including tracking content area(s) of concern.
 - c. Plans for collaboration.
 - d. Project timeline with milestones.
 - e. Anticipated challenges in meeting the goals set forth in project.
 - f. Expected outcome of project.
 - g. Reasons project may have high probability of success.
 - h. Future plans to sustain project beyond the project period.
3. Curriculum vitae.

Applications must be received by Sept. 9, 2016. Decisions will be announced October 2016. Fellowship activities will start in late October 2016, to be completed no later than June 30, 2017. Each application will be reviewed and rated by a panel consisting of ASTHO and CDC Tracking Program staff.

For questions about this fellowship, please contact:

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For more information on Tracking Program, please visit:
www.astho.org
www.cdc.gov/ephtracking

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is the national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy and to ensuring excellence in state-based public health practice.