

## Local Public Health Policy & Practice Scholars

### About NACCHO

NACCHO's members are the **2,800 local health departments across the United States**. Our mission is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives.

### About the Program

The Local Public Health Policy & Practice Scholars Program is a practice-based opportunity for graduate-level students to work on policy and practice issues impacting public health at the local level. Scholars approach their areas of interest recognizing the great diversity within NACCHO's membership.

#### Policy & Practice Scholars will:

- Learn how local public health fits into the broader U.S. public health system;
- Gain subject matter expertise;
- Refine writing and research skills;
- Expand their network of public health professionals;
- Contribute to NACCHO publications, which are used by health departments across the country. These may include policy statements, issue briefs, fact sheets, and Stories from the Field ([www.nacchostories.org](http://www.nacchostories.org)).

### Requirements

Students who participate in NACCHO's Local Public Health Scholars Program should have completed their first semester of a graduate-level program within a relevant discipline. Students should plan to receive academic credit for their internship. Applicants should have less than five years work experience in public health.

Each internship is tailored to meet the needs of the individual and their university, but, in general, scholars:

- Complete a minimum of 100 hours;
- Attend a half-day program orientation and a half-day program conclusion, via webinar or at NACCHO's DC-based office. NACCHO scholars may be asked to attend additional events;
- Work independently and are able to complete the program remotely;
- Arrange and attend a routine check-in call with their assigned preceptor;
- Submit all assigned deliverables on time.

## Areas of Interest

Policy & Practice Scholars select up to three areas of interest, which may include:

- ✓ **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE:** Supporting health departments respond to existing and emergency environmental health threats. Areas of interest include food and water safety.
- ✓ **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECURITY:** mitigating the impact of natural and human-made environmental events on the public and the built environment. Areas of interest include climate change, food defense, and biosecurity.
- ✓ **HEALTHCARE COALITIONS:** Supporting the implementation and maintenance of healthcare coalitions at the local level.
- ✓ **MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH:** Local health departments play an important role in coordinating the broader public health system's efforts to improve the health of women, children and adolescents.
- ✓ **MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (MRC):** a national network of local groups of medical and non-medical volunteers committed to improving community health, safety, and resiliency.
- ✓ **PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS AND PHARMACY PARTNERSHIPS:** innovative strategies to prepare for and respond to severe pandemic outbreaks. Encompasses the distribution of medical countermeasures through public/private partnerships.
- ✓ **PUBLIC HEALTH LAW:** the intersection of legal practice, public health regulations, and the advancement of population health. Areas of interest include health and disabilities, environmental health regulations, and assess legal issues around medical countermeasure distribution.
- ✓ **PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS PLANNING:** Strengthening health departments' ability to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies.
- ✓ **RISK COMMUNICATION:** includes the development of strategies for improving public health Communication during disasters and emergencies. Areas of interest may strategic communication planning and the role of public health communicators at local health departments.

## How to Apply

We will accept applications to the summer 2015 class of policy and practice scholars from **March 30<sup>th</sup> to May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015**. The summer cohort is smaller than fall/spring cohorts; around 10 students will be accepted. Students are encouraged to apply early.

Interested students should apply through:  
<http://naccho.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV>

Please direct questions about the program and application process to [studentprograms@naccho.org](mailto:studentprograms@naccho.org).