



NEPHTC Health Equity Internship Program

Agency Project Proposal

The New England Public Health Training Center invites public and nonprofit health agencies and organizations in New England, particularly those serving underserved areas and populations, to submit health equity internship project opportunities for public health students by filling out the following proposal form. Students selected to work on approved projects will receive a \$3,500 stipend from NEPHTC.

What is a health equity project? Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. Health equity projects focus on removing or reducing barriers to health caused by race or ethnicity, education, income, location or other social factors. Proposed projects benefit medically underserved populations and may address any health or social problem. Highly desired are projects for agencies located in [medically underserved areas](#) or [rural areas](#).

General Overview

Organization Name	Vermont Department of Health (VDH)
Primary Contact Name	Jillian Leikauskas
Primary Contact Title	Substance Abuse Program Evaluator
Primary Contact Email	Jillian.leikauskas@vermont.gov
Street Address	108 Cherry St. Suite 207
City, State, ZIP Code	Burlington, Vermont 05401
Primary Contact Phone	802-651-1565

1. Organization description, including service area, services and population(s) served

The Vermont Department of Health serves all of Vermont, which is one of the most rural states in the nation.

Project Overview

2. Internship project title

Substance Misuse Data Dashboard Project

3. Project description

Describe the project fully. Include scope of desired/expected activities, any specialized skills needed, list those who will be involved (units, departments, etc.) and expected outcomes/deliverables.

This project would involve developing a prototype dashboard to display Vermont substance misuse data using Power BI with multiple data sources which may include: SATIS (Substance Abuse Treatment Information System), VPMS (Vermont Prescription Monitoring System) and a variety of other data sets. The student would be working with aggregate data sets and determining the best data display methods for each indicator to create an interactive report. This project would be

part of an ongoing project that is creating an interactive, web-based data publisher for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs at VDH.

This student would primarily be working with the Performance Measures and Evaluation Unit in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs at the VDH. However, they would also be collaborating with Health Surveillance Division at VDH and the Agency of Digital Services.

The deliverable for this project would be an interactive dashboard built in PowerBI. The student should have at least one graduate level semester of statistics or epidemiology. Aptitude and interest in graphical representation of information and data is necessary but working knowledge of PowerBI is not required.

4. What kind of student might be a good fit for this project? Note: If you have already identified a student, please provide student information here, including degree being pursued and home academic institution.

Describe the types of background, skills, aptitudes most desired.

The student should have at least one graduate level semester of statistics or epidemiology. Aptitude and interest in graphical representation of information and data is necessary but working knowledge of PowerBI is not required.

5. How does this project help your organization to improve health equity?

This project helps our organization improve health equity by making the data more available to internal and external partners in more granular form, such as by subpopulation. By making the data more available, our partners can use these data to inform the projects they do and the people they serve. This project is also part of the movement away from static data reports to interactive reports. By moving to interactive reports, partners will be able to manipulate the data to see how specific populations are impacted by substance use disorder.

6. Project location if not the same as organization address (include complete address with zip code)

On-site (108 Cherry, Burlington, VT 05401) is preferred but we would consider a candidate who has extensive data visualization experience or current PowerBI experience.

7. Project timeline (start and end date with any deadlines)

Project start: January 2020

Project Completion: June 30, 2020

8. Project supervisor name, academic credentials and description of public health practice experience

Jillian Leikauskas, MPH

Jillian is a Substance Abuse Program Evaluator who received her MPH from UVM. In her current position she performs evaluations on projects funded by demonstration grants. She is also managing a grant that is funding the creation of an interactive, web-based data publisher. She has a background in infectious disease epidemiology where she performed data management, analysis and visualization.

9. Please feel free to share any additional information on your project that might be helpful to us.

Some examples of similar work are:

<https://www.state.nj.us/health/populationhealth/opioid/>

Return to

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