

2023 ASPPH/USDA Rural Health Fellowship Program Announcement



ASPPH FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

ASPPH ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS
OF PUBLIC HEALTH
THE VOICE OF ACADEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH

2023 Fellowship Opportunity ASPPH/USDA Rural Health Fellowship Program

Program Announcement

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) aims to strengthen the capacity of members by advancing leadership, excellence, and collaboration for academic public health. Our members are Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)-accredited schools and programs of public health as well as schools and programs in applicant status for CEPH-accreditation.

ASPPH has partnered with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development to offer an innovative training opportunity for early-career public health professionals. By participating in the **ASPPH/USDA Rural Health Fellowship Program**, the selected fellow will have the opportunity to contribute to USDA programs related to rural health, lead the development of tools to better understand and access USDA programs that can be used by federal and non-federal partners, prepare and implement rural health initiatives or strategies with USDA programs and federal and non-federal partners, and build and maintain relationships across USDA and between USDA and partners. This fellowship is the first of its kind to be offered by ASPPH.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants must have received their Master's or Doctorate degree prior to the beginning of the fellowship (no later than June 2023) or within the last five years (no earlier than May 2018). Graduate degrees must come from an ASPPH-member graduate school or program of public health accredited by CEPH. (For a list of ASPPH members, see www.ASPPH.org.) All applicants must be citizens of the United States or hold a visa permitting permanent residence (i.e., have a "Green Card") in the United States to be eligible for the fellowship program.

Certification in Public Health (CPH) is preferred, but not required. (www.nbphe.org)

Period of Performance

The fellowship position is a full-time opportunity for a period of **one year**, ~June 2023 – June 2024, with the possibility to extend for an additional year.

Location

The fellowship is based at United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development in Washington DC, but hybrid/remote candidates will be considered.

Funds Available

The training stipend for the fellowship position is **\$60,500 per year**. The fellowship training stipend is intended to cover all personal living expenses.

In addition to the fellowship training stipend, fellows will receive a **\$10,000 general expense allowance** to offset the cost of health insurance premium expenses and fellowship-related travel/training expenses incurred during the fellowship period.

Application Procedure

Applications are submitted through the ASPPH Fellowship Online Application System at <https://fellowships-internships.aspph.org>. The materials needed to complete an application are detailed on the application form. Incomplete applications are not accepted. Please see Page 3 for detailed application instructions.

Applications must be **submitted electronically** no later than **11:59 PM Eastern Time** on:

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess the applicant's ability to succeed in the fellowship program.

<u>Evaluation Criteria</u>	<u>Maximum Points</u>
Quality of Essay*	40
Strength of Credentials	25
Previous Experience	25
Recommendations	10
<i>*Special consideration will be given to candidates with exposure to a broad array of life experiences and viewpoints, and who can bring diverse perspectives and experiences to the fellowship project, rural health, and public health in general. Applicants should highlight these attributes in their essay.</i>	

Review Committee & Selection

By mid-February an Objective Review Committee will complete the review of the applications based on the criteria described above. Candidates receiving a high score in Objective Review will advance to Technical Review at USDA Rural Development. Late-February through late-March, applicants may be contacted by USDA Rural Development staff and/or ASPPH staff for a telephone interview, additional information, and/or clarification of information relevant to the application. All final selections will be made by late-March. Those applicants chosen will be immediately notified by phone and email. All other applicants will be notified by email.

Application Instructions

The ASPPH Fellowships Online Application System is the secure, centralized application service for applicants from an ASPPH member-accredited school of public health. You may begin your search and application immediately by clicking the link below:

<https://fellowships-internships.aspph.org>

To begin an online application, create an account by clicking the "Sign up" link directly underneath the Login section. All information is transmitted through a secured server and kept confidential until the application is submitted. An application is only reviewed by ASPPH staff after it has been submitted.

Carefully read the instructions that appear throughout the online application system. After submission, applicants may edit applications by clicking on the pencil icon () in the “My Status” section at any time prior to the application deadline. The application may be edited as necessary at any time prior to the application due date. If edits are made to the application, candidates must then resubmit the application before the deadline passes in order to be received and reviewed by ASPPH. The following information/documents is required to complete the online application:

- Faculty Advisor name, phone number, and email address if you have not yet graduated
 - ❖ *When you submit your application, the system will generate an email to your Faculty Advisor asking them to verify your expected graduation date*.*

- Resume/CV (PDF only)

- Name, phone number, and email address for two references who will write your letters of recommendation
 - ❖ *Suggested references are individuals with whom the applicant has built a substantial relationship in the following areas: Academic; Public Health Practice; Volunteer or Community Service; Other professional that can effectively address the applicant’s skills, qualities, and personal attributes.*
 - ❖ *When you submit your application, the system will generate an email to your two references asking them to upload their letters of recommendation*.*
 - ❖ *Letters of recommendation must be on official letterhead with an original signature and include the name, degree(s), title, institution, and contact information of the reference.*

- One essay per position applied to (1500-word max; PDF only)
 - ❖ *Explain your personal and professional interests, strengths, and qualifications for succeeding in this particular USDA fellowship assignment and how it will benefit your long-term career plans in the fields of public health and rural health.*
 - ❖ *Special consideration will be given to candidates with exposure to a broad array of life experiences and viewpoints, and who can bring diverse perspectives and experiences to the fellowship project, rural health, and public health in general. Applicants should highlight these attributes in their essay.*

- Unofficial graduate transcripts (ASPPH Member School or Program of Public Health only; PDF only)
 - ❖ *If you are offered and accept a fellowship position, you will be required to provide an official graduate transcript.*

IMPORTANT:

*Please note that the Online Application System will not generate the email to your Faculty Advisor or References until you click the “Submit” button in Step 5 of the application. Saving the application for later submission will not generate these emails. The deadline for your Faculty Advisor and References to submit their portions is the same as the application deadline below. Therefore, you should not wait until the last day to submit your application, because your Faculty Advisor and References will not have time to complete their sections. ***You will be able to submit early in the system to generate the emails to your Faculty Advisor and References, and then re-open and edit the application as needed for completion.*** Any applications not submitted or not completed by the deadline will not be reviewed, and the applicant will not be eligible.

Applications must be submitted electronically, through the Online Application System, by **11:59 PM Eastern Time on Wednesday, January 11, 2023**.

Fellowship Project Description for 2023

Title of Fellowship:

ASPSPH/USDA Rural Health Fellowship

Location:

The fellowship is based at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Office in Washington DC (Hybrid/Remote candidates will be considered.)

Project Period:

June 2023 – June 2024, with possibility to extend

Purpose and Mission of the Sponsoring Agency:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is uniquely charged with providing effective, innovative, science-based public policy leadership in agriculture, food and nutrition, natural resource protection and management, rural development, and related issues. USDA is composed of 8 mission areas that focus in on these responsibilities. Rural Development (RD) is one of those mission areas charged with improving the economy and quality of life in rural America through support for economic development and essential services. The 2018 Farm Bill created the USDA Rural Health Liaison role to increase collaboration in support of rural health across USDA, between USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and between USDA and other partners and customers.

Project description:

USDA is seeking a public health fellow to train with the Rural Health Liaison. The Rural Health Liaison works across USDA and between USDA and outside partners, especially HHS, to align rural health efforts, identify opportunities for connecting partners or leveraging resources to measure and improve rural health outcomes. The fellow will contribute to the Rural Health Liaison's efforts to maintain and adapt an inventory of USDA programs related to rural health, lead the development of tools to better understand and access USDA programs that can be used by federal and non-federal partners, prepare and implement rural health initiatives or strategies with USDA programs and federal and non-federal partners, and build and maintain relationships across USDA and between USDA and partners. For example, USDA has led multiple agencies in convening parties interested in Farm Stress to discuss tools and experiences. The fellowship project will address a need in rural communities for information, technical assistance and resources related to rural health and the needed community level supports to achieve those outcomes. Many factors affect rural health, including health care quality and access along with the Social Determinants of Health that include economic stability, education, social and community support, and neighborhood and built environment.

Expected Benefits:

This fellowship will provide the opportunity for the participant to gain practical public health experience with a focus on rural areas. Specifically, the participant will gain experience in project management, understanding the

breadth of USDA programs and research products that can inform decision-making related to rural health, and relationship building and management skills working with a wide range of partners to engage and join in outreach, initiatives, or projects. The participant will have the opportunity to work with data analytics, regulation and policy interpretation and management, customer experience, and strategic engagement in support of rural health.

Qualifications of Desired Applicant:

- Recent graduate (within 5 years) of an ASPPH-member institution masters' or doctoral program
- Ability to effectively multi-task and prioritize.
- Ability to work on projects independently and as a team player.
- Ability to identify, analyze, and propose resolutions for problems or issues.
- Strong analytical and technical writing skills.
- Effective oral and written communication skills, with an eye to tailoring writing and communication to the audience.
- Customer service orientation and interpersonal skills to work collaboratively as a member of multi-disciplinary and inter-agency teams.
- Experience or strong interest in working with rural communities and partners
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Certified in Public Health (CPH) Preferred



IMPORTANT NOTES:

The preceding statements for potential projects are intended to describe general activities associated with each fellowship project. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all activities, skills, or efforts associated with each fellowship.

ASPPH is committed to our core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion and actively works to integrate these core values into all elements of our work. ASPPH is an equal opportunity employer and highly encourages candidates from all backgrounds to apply, including people of color, ethnic minorities, new Americans (immigrants and refugees), LGBTQ+ individuals, people with alternate abilities, indigenous individuals, and veterans. ASPPH complies with all federal, state, and local laws providing equal employment opportunities, and all other employment laws and regulations. ASPPH maintains a work environment that is free of harassment, discrimination, or retaliation because of age, race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal, state, or local laws.