Foundations of Population Health Science and Practice – Mini Course for Public Health Professionals

Funded by CDC’s Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Service (CSELS)/ Division of Scientific Education and Professional Development (DSEPD)

National Public Health Workforce Strategic Priority Area: Increase the capability of the existing workforce

Project Focus Area: Scientific education and professional development

Associated with CDC’s Collaboration with Academia to Strengthen Public Health Workforce Capacity (funding opportunity number CDC-RFA-OE17-170103CONT19), as supplemental funding to an existing cooperative agreement entitled CDC’s Collaboration with Academia to Strengthen Public Health.

Purpose: An increasingly integrated health system requires health professionals who are prepared to practice, deliver, and integrate clinical and/or public health services across boundaries for the betterment of the public's health. Workforce Improvement Projects provide a way for CDC to partner with academia on non-research, applied public health activities that better prepare health professionals and strengthen public health workforce capacity.

Approximate Total Project Period Funding

$172,200 over 2 years, subject to availability of funds (one award, including direct and indirect costs)

Approximate Average Award

$86,100 (award estimate for 12-month budget period [Year 1], subject to availability of funds)

Length of Project Period

Two years: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021 (subject to availability of funds)
Application Deadline

Completed application packets must be submitted to cdc@aamc.org by 11:59 p.m. ET on March 22, 2019.

Project Description

Problem Statement and Need:
Although courses in population health science and practice are provided by a number of universities/colleges, there isn't foundational tailored training specifically for the public health workforce that can be accessed at no cost to the learner. Due to limited funding available for workforce development, public health departments need access to high-quality free or low-cost training for their staff.

Furthermore, because the multidisciplinary, interprofessional approach to assessing and addressing population-level health conditions is implemented in clinical settings as well as community settings, much of the population health coursework that is offered is broad in order to meet the diverse approaches used in both of those settings. Although this approach has some benefits, it also presents some limitations for the learner as the basic definition of population health and considerations for implementing population health improvements efforts differs significantly in the community setting versus the clinical setting.

Health departments and community-based organizations that have public health central to their mission have unique needs, modalities, approaches, regulatory, and public policy contexts under which they operate which inform their population health improvement efforts. Population health trainings/mini courses that specifically address the unique needs and goals of public health are not universally accessible. There is a need for training that provides high yield information that equips the public health workforce with foundational knowledge in population health science and best practices in population health.

The proposed training series will contribute to the ongoing professional development of the public health workforce by increasing their foundational knowledge of population health science and the effective design, implementation, and evaluation of population health practice activities.

Target Populations:
The target population for this funding opportunity are schools and/or programs in population health in either public health, medical, or nursing schools.

The target population for the trainings that will be developed are public health staff and leaders in state and local health departments and community settings, and other governmental public health staff working within communities.

Key Outcomes:
• Development and implementation of a training needs assessment involving health departments and community-based organizations either currently implementing or who desire to implement population health initiatives
Development and implementation of a training series on population health practice for the public health workforce within a pilot group of learners
Development of an assessment that allows users to provide feedback about the series and integrating user feedback in Version 2.0
Dissemination of the 2.0 training series on a public platform

Awardee Strategies and Approaches

The project will occur in four phases: Phases 1-3 will occur in year 1, and Phase 4 will occur in year 2.

YEAR 1
Phase 1 (The Needs Assessment) will require the awardee to conduct a training needs assessment with a representative sample that identifies the competency, skills, knowledge of the training target audience in the major population health science and practice domains (e.g. Social Determinants, Population Health Assessment, Decision Sciences- methods and application, Boundary-Spanning/Intersectoral Leadership, Designing and Evaluating Interprofessional Population-Level Interventions, and Policy Innovations in Population Health). The training needs assessment should also include a sample of early career professionals/trainees in governmental public health entities to ensure that the training developed meets the needs of early, mid and late career professionals. The information obtained in the assessment will inform the second phase of the project.

Phase 2 (Development of Training Series Version 1.0) will require the awardee to draw from the needs assessment and its faculty's knowledge and expertise of population health science and practice to develop modules. Modules should address the identified domains previously mentioned. The awardee will use, draw upon, and incorporate related learning content developed with CDC support such as case studies and other application exercises.

Phase 3 (Implementation of Training) will require the awardee to deliver the training to a pilot group of public health professionals. The awardee will solicit feedback from participants to inform any needed improvement and/or modifications.

YEAR 2
Phase 4 (Finalize and Disseminate Training) will require the awardee to incorporate suggestions for improvement in a Version 2.0 package and disseminate the training series in identified public learning platforms (e.g. CDC Train).

CDC/CSELS Staff Activities

The training series will be developed in collaboration with CSELS. Program staff in the Division of Scientific Education and Professional Development will meet monthly with the prime awardee and WIP recipient. Monthly meetings will consist of a summary of the status of the project/progress achieved and ongoing advisement and technical assistance from various CDC subject matter experts about the project.
Special Eligibility Requirements (of applicants)

Due to the limited time-frame for project implementation, eligible applicants are limited to established schools and programs that grant degrees in population health. Eligible applicants must have significant experience in developing population health coursework and experience with and knowledge of population health science and practice, governmental public health, and community health improvement.

Application Instructions

Application for Federal Assistance – Complete SF-424

Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs – Complete SF-424A

Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable - include in application package)

A Project Abstract must not exceed one page and must contain a summary of the proposed activity suitable for dissemination to the public. It should be a self-contained description of the project and should contain a statement of objectives and methods to be employed. It should be informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and insofar as possible understandable to a technically literate lay reader. This abstract must not include any proprietary/confidential information.

A Budget Justification must be in a Word file format. The budget justification must be a line item narrative justification for the total amount requested.

A Project Narrative must be in a Word file format. The narrative must be submitted in the following format:

- Maximum number of pages: 20. Web links are allowed.
- Each section should use Times New Roman 12 point font, double spaced, with one-inch margins
- Number all narrative pages; not to exceed the maximum number of pages
- Budget justification can be a separate document

Review Criteria

- Population Health Science and Practice Expertise (30 points): The applicant has demonstrated expertise in population health sciences and practice. The applicant draws from established experts from various disciplines to develop the various modules.
- Population Health Course Development Expertise (30 points): The applicant has demonstrated at least 2 years of experience in developing population health learning content and the institution has a history of training population health professionals and grants a degree in population health.
- Detailed Quality Work and Staffing Plan (30 points): The applicant provides a detailed work plan that describes when and how they will achieve the identified phases, goals, and desired outcomes. The applicant also provides the information (CV/biosketch) about identified faculty with varying expertise that will develop the different modules.
• **Collaborative Engagement with the Public Health Workforce (10 points):** Within the project plan, the applicant has a clear strategy for how they will reach the public health workforce and involve them in the needs assessment and training design/redesign.

**Other Information**

Training should incorporate established adult learning principles, use participatory teaching methods in addition to passive teaching methods, and adopt CDC's Quality Training Standards which can be accessed at [https://www.cdc.gov/trainingdevelopment/standards/standards.html](https://www.cdc.gov/trainingdevelopment/standards/standards.html).