

Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors (NALHD)

SL/CE Site/Organization brief description:

The Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors (NALHD) is Nebraska's SACCHO (the state-level affiliate of the National Association of County City Health Officials [NACCHO]). NALHD is governed by a 17-member Board of Directors whose service areas include over ¾ of the state and who bring decades of combined experience in public health to their efforts. The Executive Director holds an MPH from Emory University and has extensive experience in public health practice, especially services to language minority families and children.

Community organization site contact: [Susan Bockrath](#)

Description of identified needs and proposed activities:

NALHD's goals are to:

1. Collaborate to build sustainable, local public health infrastructures, and
2. Develop partnerships and systems that will help us to both fulfill our collective and individual visions and to implement local strategies that support individual and community health.

NALHD embraces Dean Khan's vision to make Nebraska the healthiest state in the nation. NALHD members work with each other and with partners from various sectors to promote and protect the health of Nebraskans. To this end, we hope to engage highly motivated, independent, and organized students to work directly with and learn from the state's local health directors.

NALHD is willing and eager to hear project ideas from students who are suited to this distance placement. Some ideas for projects that would be helpful to us include...

1. Social media development and support (e.g. develop and implement a communication plan for Facebook; develop communication strategy for our list serv.)
2. Review and synthesis of members' Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP) as a contribution to organizational strategic priority setting.
3. Develop, implement, and analyze intra-association surveys commissioned by NALHD committees.
4. Develop webinar series' syllabi and lesson plans related to organization strategic priority areas.
5. Complete Network Analysis related to strategic priorities.

Timeframe of proposed activities to begin:

Ongoing, any of these projects could begin January 2015 or earlier.

Benefit of proposed activities to community organization:

NALHD's vision is ambitious but the organization has limited budget and staff to support what needs to occur to realize that vision. The activities listed above would significantly help NALHD facilitate effective local health department collaboration, program improvement, communication, and outreach.

Benefit of proposed activities to the student:

Students will work with and learn from NALHD members, who include the vast majority of the state's health department directors. Regardless of project specifics, when working with NALHD, students will gain professional experience in public health practice and public health consulting including communication skills, health literate strategies (a focus of NALHD's current project work), policy development and implementation. A placement with NALHD will also provide direct access and networking opportunities with local health department directors. Such networks will be useful when seeking future employment opportunities in Nebraska, and elsewhere. Additionally, the bulk of NALHD's work is done via distance (phone, GoToMeeting, Wiggio, and other online platforms). Experience with distance collaboration will allow students to gain insight into the vast range of local health departments' structures and services across the state and will prepare the students with skills to effectively collaborate and work remotely. Given the distance-based nature of NALHD's work, students will not be required to relocate nor to travel (though site visits will be encouraged, when feasible).

Skill sets of students requested, including possible MPH concentration desired:

Students must have excellent time management skills and the ability to independently work and problem solve. The student will be expected to be experienced users of the Microsoft Office suite and other programs/applications needed for their given project (e.g. Survey Monkey, Epi Info, etc.). Student must have reliable use of their own computer, phone, and webcam for NALHD-related activities. Any MPH concentration could be considered, depending on the focus of the SL/CE project.