

UNMC, College of Public Health
Applied Practice Experience (APEX) Opportunities

Partner organization name: Clay County Public Health Center

Partner organization website: www.clayhealth.com

Partner organization brief description: Clay County Public Health Center is a local public health department created in 1953 to protect the health of all people in the county by implementing population-based prevention programs and services. This community approach to wellness is accomplished through programs and services, which not only prevent the spread of disease but also provide wellness education to empower people to make healthy choices.

Partner organization's point of contact name and email:

Erin Cooper – Volunteer and Intern Coordinator: ecooper@clayhealth.com (Please contact Erin if interested in this opportunity)

Dr. Jason Stalling: jstalling@clayhealth.com

Lori Miller, MS, BSN, RN: lmiller@clayhealth.com

Description of partner organization's priority opportunities (APEX activities):

- Conduct research pertaining to the utilization of WIC services in community areas with the highest needs.
- Determine future growth trends over the next five years based on data within focus communities.
- Compare data with locations the Health Department currently operates WIC clinics in to determine future coverage needs based on existing client to provider ratio data.

Period of proposed activities: Fall 2025 or Spring 2026

The activities will be worked on throughout the student's APEX time that is allotted. The student will not be required to do ALL the activities listed, but will be actively involved in planning, execution, and measurement of impact.

Benefit of proposed activities to partner organization:

- Enhance Existing WIC-Eligible Population Data: Through additional research, health department leadership will include additional data/research in future decision making processes.
- Strengthen Community Partnerships: Building stronger ties with local educational facilities/institutions, community organizations, and other partners.

Benefit of proposed activities to the student:

- Practical Public Health Experience: Applying project management, communication, and community engagement skills in a real-world setting.
- Leadership Development: Coordinating volunteers, leading planning efforts, and serving as the primary point of contact for vendors and partners.
- Cultural Competency Skills: Engaging with diverse populations, learning to adapt communication materials, and addressing community-specific health equity needs.
- Networking Opportunities: Building relationships with public health professionals, community organizations, and educational institutions.

*Note—An affiliation agreement will be required prior to student engagement

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- Evaluation & Assessment Skills: Developing and analyzing post-event surveys to measure event success and identify areas for improvement.

Skill sets of students requested:

- Strong Communication Skills: Ability to engage diverse audiences, draft clear promotional materials, and build rapport with partners.
- Organizational Skills: Capable of managing multiple tasks, timelines, and resources simultaneously.
- Project Management Experience: Understanding of event planning processes, task delegation, and timeline management.
- Cultural Awareness & Inclusivity: Comfortable working with multilingual and multicultural communities; experience utilizing translation and interpretation services is a plus.
- Collaboration Skills: Ability to work effectively with both outside and internal teams.
- Adaptability & Problem-Solving: Willingness to troubleshoot issues during planning and event execution.

Additional Information (format of preferred engagement-virtual, hybrid, in-person; partner organization's location): In-person engagement strongly preferred. Hybrid options possible.