

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

Partner organization name: Central District Health Department

Partner organization website: www.cdhd.ne.gov

Partner organization brief description:

Central District Health Department (CDHD) serves 79,740 people within a three-county district comprised of Hall, Hamilton, and Merrick counties in central Nebraska. CDHD was formed in 2002 because of State legislation that applied Tobacco Master Settlement funds to organize local health departments statewide. CDHD is made up of 8 different divisions, including Collective Impact, Community Health, Environmental Health, Health Families America (HFA), Health Promotions, Infectious Disease, Lead Project, and WIC.

Partner organization's point of contact name and email:

Karly Simonson, Deputy Director, ksimonson@cdhd.ne.gov

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

- Update our contact lists and organize by sections such as hospitals, healthcare providers, childcares, media, and partner organizations.
- Develop policies and procedures that can be integrated into our Communications Plan that outlines who is responsible for updating our contact list and how often.

Timeframe of proposed activities:

Completion of project by scheduled PHAB site visit November 2025

Benefit of proposed activities to partner organization:

This work helps align our external communications with partners for Emergency Response, and Media. We are currently in pursuit of our initial PHAB Accreditation. Having clear policies and procedures relates to Measure 2.2.5 - Risk Communications Plan and Measure 3.1.1- Non-Emergency Communications Plan. Both of these measures are Communication plan requirements.

Benefit of proposed activities to the student:

Experience engaging community partners in a public health setting. Experience in policy and procedure development and implementation.

Skill sets of students requested:

- Proficiency in facilitating collaboration and partnerships to ensure participation of key stakeholders and improve public health.
- Proficiency in applying public health principles, applying knowledge of public health interventions, laws, regulations, and policy processes, and implementing best practices.
- Proficiency in communicating in writing, and orally, in person, and through electronic means, with linguistic and cultural proficiency.

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

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- Proficiency in use of intermediate computer skills: email, word processing, use of spreadsheets established databases and spreadsheets, presentation and publisher software, and internet searches.

Additional Information (format of preferred engagement-virtual, hybrid, in-person; partner organization's location):

In-Person or hybrid engagement preferred. Virtual engagement will be considered for students who are a strong fit. Address is 1137 S. Locust St. Grand Island, NE 68801