# State Projects

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Briefly describe the project (or projects) in which the students will be involved and how the project(s) relates to your Title V action plan.

Address Alabama Title V Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) program state priorities for 2016-2020 by developing surveys, a database, and data collection forms, and by collecting data to support activities around National and State Performance Measures. Alabama has prioritized National Performance Measures (NPM)s 11 and 12 to address the health needs of CYSHCN. The NPMs are as follows: 1) National Performance Measure 11: Percent of children with and without special health care needs having a medical home; and, 2) National Performance Measure 12: Percent of adolescents with and without special health care needs who received services necessary to make transitions to adult health care. There is one State Performance Measure: Increasing the capacity to promote shared decision-making and partnerships between families and health and related professionals. The activities for the State measure are divided into three sections. The State Office parent consultant and maternal and child health coordinator will select the section which is feasible for the students to work on over a nine-week period.

List 2-3 overall project objectives for the joint project that the students will work on and then describe the activities you envision them engaging in to achieve these objectives.

**Objective 1:** Develop/modify quantitative data collection forms for two CYSHCN National Performance Measures and one State Performance Measure. Input available data and provide results to the State Title V CYSHCN program. Analyze data and provide a descriptive narrative report with accompanying infographics.

**Objective 2:** Develop a short pediatric medical home survey with 8-12 questions to assess patient-centered medical home. The survey will be disseminated by CYSHCN staff following the Title V MCH Internship Program.

**Objective 3:** Develop a database of adult PCPs who provide care for CYSHCN. The database will be built from in-house electronic medical records, social work/transition specialist information, and through communication with physicians, and data collected from care coordinators in the State Implementation Grants for Integrated Community Systems for CYSHCN.

What skills are required for the project(s)?

Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Qualitative Methods (Analysis), Survey Development, SAS/SPSS/STATA, Synthesis of Information, Effective Communication Skills, & Effective Presentation Skills

Describe the deliverables or products expected from the MCH Title V Internship team by the end of the summer.

Establish a database of adult PCPs by inputting district and state level data. Analyze and provide descriptive data for the two CYSHCN NPMs and the SPM using infographics and narrative format. Create a well-designed pediatric medical home survey, printed and ready for distribution to primary care physicians.

Please indicate whether there is affordable housing available for the students near your agency.
Yes

Agency: Alaska Department of Health & Social Services
Division: Public Health
City: Anchorage, Alaska

Briefly describe the project (or projects) in which the students will be involved and how the project(s) relates to your Title V action plan.
The Alaska School Nurse Care Coordination (SNCC) Pilot Project is a collaborative effort (Spring 2016 to Fall 2017) with the Alaska Division of Public Health, the Anchorage School District, and a Pediatric Medical Home Champion. The project aims to improve care coordination for medically complex students enrolled in the program by increasing opportunities for communication between school nurses and medical practitioners. This occurs through a “shared plan of care” in which school nurses, as part of the health care team, have real-time access to student’s electronic medical records, including office visits, lab results, medication changes, and patient goals, from the medical home office. The project is being piloted in five elementary schools in Anchorage with the hope to expand further, following an evaluation of outcomes. This pilot is a specific strategy targeted to move the needle on NPM 11, Medical Homes with a focus on Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) and is funded by HRSA’s Systems Integration Grant for CYSHCN. The project is embedded within Alaska’s Title V Block Grant Five Year Action Plan strategies and activities. MCH students will work closely with Title V staff and pediatric medical home champion to develop and refine a toolkit to replicate and spread successful components of the SNCC model statewide. The MCH student/s will assist in identification and adaptation of materials and processes to be included in the toolkit such as family centered medical home brochures, sample shared plan of care, and quality improvement tools. MCH student/s will research and design appropriate evaluation methodologies to measure impact and sustainability of SNCC activities. Currently the SNCC pilot project is limited to one Anchorage based pediatric practice; however, Title V staff are working to identify additional practices to promote this SNCC model. Dependent on the level of practice engagement, by summer 2017 students may be assigned to work with individual practices to establish and test the newly developed SNCC toolkit. The model and toolkit have the potential to become a resource used by Title V programs in other states.

List 2-3 overall project objectives for the joint project that the students will work on and then describe the activities you envision them engaging in to achieve these objectives.
Objective 1: To develop and refine a toolkit to replicate and spread successful components of the School Nurse Care Coordination (SNCC) model statewide. • Meet with program managers, school nurses, pediatric practices, and families participating in the pilot to gather input through key informant interviews for essential components of a toolkit • Develop evaluation plan to measure impact of SNCC • Develop toolkit and evaluation timelines in Excel or Word.
Objective 2: To support CYSHCN Program Manager in sustainability planning for SNCC and other successful activities of HRSA-funded Systems Integration Grant as it concludes in Fall 2017 • Participate in conference calls for the HRSA Systems Integration Grant to learn about sustainability planning.

What skills are required for the project(s)?
Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Program Planning, Program Evaluation, Facilitation Skills, Survey Development, Effective Communication Skills, Effective Presentation Skills, & Publication Design
Describe the deliverables or products expected from the MCH Title V Internship team by the end of the summer.
SNCC Toolkit, SNCC Sustainability planning and replication, SNCC model evaluation design

Please indicate whether there is affordable housing available for the students near your agency.
Yes
Agency: Georgia Department of Public Health
Division: Health Promotion
City: Atlanta, Georgia

Briefly describe the project (or projects) in which the students will be involved and how the project(s) relates to your Title V action plan.

Newborn screening is a population based public health program that provides screening services to about 4 million babies born in the US each year. Newborn screening prevents morbidity and mortality related to 34 core heritable conditions and 26 secondary conditions on the recommended uniformed screening panel. Early treatment attenuates or completely prevents adverse health outcomes, such as significant developmental delays, cognitive delays, and even death. The Georgia Newborn Screening Program (NBS) works within a six-part preventive health care system designed to identify and provide early treatment for these disorders. The six components of the system are: education, screening, follow-up, medical diagnosis, management, and evaluation. In Georgia over 135,000 infants are screened for 29 metabolic disorders. Within 48 hours of life, blood is collected from the heel of almost every infant born across the state and is transported to the Georgia Public Health Lab where it is analyzed to identify biomarkers indicative of disease. Screening for hearing loss, and Critical Congenital Heart Defects are also performed in the hospital shortly after birth; however, results of these screenings are immediately produced without further analysis and are added to the infant’s newborn screening card.

Through state partnership with medical communities, parents are educated about the newborn screening process by their medical providers in the pre-partum period, in birthing centers following delivery, and at their infant’s pediatric office when receiving newborn screening results. Notification of abnormal screening results is performed by premier medical universities and children’s hospitals in Georgia. The NBS program contracts with these facilities to notify pediatricians of abnormal results and provide opportunities for infants to be rescreened and receive diagnostic testing. The medical entities providing notification to families are also experts in providing intervention for conditions detected through newborn screening. Tasking these entities with initial follow-up and diagnostic testing assists in rapidly entering infants with critical conditions into care. The state newborn screening team is looking to gain better understanding of the awareness and priority of newborn screening amongst stakeholders that have been difficult to reach. We would like to uncover any gaps in education or other barriers to collecting newborn screens, sending them to the Georgia Public Health Lab, and educating parents about the benefits and purpose of newborn screening.

List 2-3 overall project objectives for the joint project that the students will work on and then describe the activities you envision them engaging in to achieve these objectives.

**Objective 1:** Survey district and county health departments to identify the extent to which newborn screening is a priority. Survey their awareness of the newborn screening system and resources available to families.

**Objective 2:** Survey the midwifery/home birth population and gauge their connectedness with the wider system. Identify barriers they may experience in connecting to the newborn screening system in Georgia. Survey their awareness of the newborn screening system and resources available to families.

**Objective 3:** Identify existing resources available to address gaps in awareness of and access to newborn screening.
What skills are required for the project(s)?
Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Community Assessment, Qualitative Methods (Analysis), Facilitation Skills, Survey Development, Synthesis of Information, Effective Communication Skills, & Effective Presentation Skills

Describe the deliverables or products expected from the MCH Title V Internship team by the end of the summer.
By the end of the project period, we expect the student(s) to develop and disseminate surveys, hold focus groups and conduct phone calls to gather qualitative and quantitative data that provides insight to gaps in awareness of newborn screening, barriers to accessing screens, and reasons for low participation in the newborn screening process by certain groups. Students will also survey the existing infrastructure and available resources to identify mechanisms to address the identified gaps and barriers. This information should be synthesized into a single document and presentation that will be shared with the state newborn screening team and key partners.

Please indicate whether there is affordable housing available for the students near your agency.
Yes
Agency: Illinois Department of Public Health
Division: Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health Services - Office of Women’s Health and Family Services
City: Chicago, IL

Briefly describe the project (or projects) in which the students will be involved and how the project(s) relates to your Title V action plan.
The Office of Women’s Health and Family Services (OWHFS) of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is committed to improving the lives of women and children throughout Illinois by assuring timely access to affordable, comprehensive, high-quality healthcare and by delivering population-based programs that promote the public’s health. OWHFS is seeking students to support our efforts within the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program. The Illinois MCH action plan addresses the need for the continuation of initiatives on behalf of Illinois’ mothers and children. One of these initiatives includes the Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network to Reduce Infant Mortality (CoIIN). Illinois has been participating in the project since 2013. Once a regional initiative, the CoIIN expanded to a national initiative in 2015 and Illinois continued to participate in four state workgroups addressing different factors related to infant mortality: safe sleep, pre-/inter-conception care, risk-appropriate care, and social determinants of health. The team leads for these four groups comprise a state infant mortality reduction leadership team that meets quarterly to coordinate efforts, and develop strategic plans to reduce infant mortality (IM) in Illinois. In an effort to move the work of the social determinants of health team forward, the students would assist our office in taking a health equity approach to infant mortality reduction in Illinois. Specifically, the students will work with assigned mentors and other OWHFS staff to prepare and conduct a training webinar for local health departments and other community MCH agencies regarding their knowledge and capacity to address issues relative to health equity practices within their organizations. Content for the training will be developed utilizing the CoIIN Region V Foundational Practices for Health Equity Assessment tool. Additionally, the students will provide the state leadership team assistance in gathering evidence based practices from other state Infant Mortality Reduction Plans and initiatives around health equity and birth outcomes. This summary report will help to inform the development of a statewide plan to improve the health and survival of Illinois infants. Lastly, the students will be asked to develop a series of educational infographics to help inform multiple audiences on health equity and birth outcomes. Overall, this project will help Illinois Title V develop a health equity-based statewide approach to move the needle on infant mortality reduction in Illinois.

List 2-3 overall project objectives for the joint project that the students will work on and then describe the activities you envision them engaging in to achieve these objectives.

**Objective 1:** Assist in the development of a training webinar for local health departments and community based organizations on the Region V Foundational Practices in Health Equity. Students would be responsible for the development of the content for the webinar. ***This could also be done as a webinar series, where we have several different topics highlighted (e.g., Title V priorities, Data, etc.)***
- Work with MCH staff to arrange logistics
- Utilize Foundational Practices in Health Equity Assessment
- Develop content for health equity (assessment) webinar.

**Objective 2:** Develop a report that summarizes and synthesizes how other states have worked to improve health equity in birth outcomes and infant health. This report would be shared with the state Infant Mortality Reduction Leadership Team to inform the development of an Illinois Infant Mortality
Reduction Plan. • Perform a literature/document review on other state infant mortality reduction plans • Summarize what other states are doing to reduce IM • Develop a report based on best practices in health equity and birth outcomes.

**Objective 3:** Assist in the development of an educational infographic series. These infographics would be geared at educating specific audiences (legislators, providers, advocates, general public) on the impact of social determinants on health inequities and the public at large. • Draft infographics tailored to specific audiences using in-house software.

**What skills are required for the project(s)?**
Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Program Evaluation, Literature Review Skills, Synthesis of Information, Effective Communication Skills, & Effective Presentation Skills

**Describe the deliverables or products expected from the MCH Title V Internship team by the end of the summer (even if the project will be ongoing).**
• Utilizing the Foundational Practices in Health Equity Assessment Tool—a recorded training webinar regarding how LHDs and MCH agencies can assess health equity literacy and practice within their organizations. • A Best practices summary report detailing IM reduction work around the country—to help inform Illinois’ own state IM reduction plan. • A series of educational health equity in MCH infographics—geared toward multiple audiences (legislators, MCH advocates, the general public and providers).

**Please indicate whether there is affordable housing available for the students near your agency.**
Yes
Agency: Minnesota Department of Health  
Division: Community and Family Health  
City: St. Paul, Minnesota

**Briefly describe the project (or projects) in which the students will be involved and how the project(s) relates to your Title V action plan.**

There is growing interest in operationalizing a public health approach to mental health. Building resilience and reducing trauma among youth are important mental health promotion goals. Adolescence is a very important period in development, where strengthening resilience and mental wellbeing is critical. Two of Minnesota’s state priority needs, as identified on the Title V action table, highlight the importance of mental health and resilience in adolescence. First, to strengthen the health system to better meet the mental and physical health needs of adolescents, and secondly, to build community capacity to engage and support young people to be connected to community, school, and caring adults — an effective form of resilience. The Minnesota Student Survey (MSS), a local survey of Minnesota adolescents, includes a number of variables related to trauma and resilience. It is accessible to local communities by school district and therefore, is a valuable data source. It is also rich in data on other risk and protective factors and can help answer complex questions about the relationship between risky behaviors and mental health concerns. Minnesota and surrounding communities would benefit from a thorough analysis of the MSS resilience data and examples of how to apply MSS data to their resilience work.

Aligning with Minnesota Department of Health’s (MDH) strategic plan, this project will help Minnesota improve the analysis and use of data for advancing health equity, and increase capacity for authentic partnerships with communities. The primary goal of this project is to develop a report on Adolescent Resilience in Minnesota based on literature review, qualitative data collection, and MSS data. To create the report, tasks for this project include: • Conducting a literature review on effective strategies to build resilience and potential measures that align with known strategies. • Contributing to bivariate and multivariate analysis on resilience and creating a standard report that can be run for local communities, per district approval, and replicated in future years. • Facilitating conversation with select community partners on resilience, including a discussion about the stories behind the data and which data most resonates in the community. • Gathering and developing written or video summary of the community/individual stories in partnership with the select communities. • Creating a series of infographics and presentation as companion tools.

**List 2-3 overall project objectives for the joint project that the students will work on and then describe the activities you envision them engaging in to achieve these objectives.**

**Objective 1:** Awareness - A primary objective is to build awareness about resilience and mental health and well-being in Minnesota, including the concept, the building blocks and the status of resilience among our children. Developing a report will provide opportunities and material to discuss these issues.

**Objective 2:** Method to tracking resilience - There is a need for a statewide standardized method for tracking resilience among youth over time and for tracking resilience in relationship to major social issues including: mental health, bullying, racism, heterosexism, and other factors. The models developed in support of the resilience analysis and report will be a useful starting point.

**Objective 3:** Support Local Public Health - Local communities need ready-made tools to build capacity for their efforts to improve resilience and mental well-being. Tools such as infographics, stories of
resilience, and data reports that they can produce independently will help local public health engage communities and facilitate action.

**What skills are required for the project(s)?**
Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Literature review, Qualitative Methods (Analysis), Facilitation Skills, SAS/SPSS/STATA, Synthesis of Information, Effective Communication Skills, & Effective Presentation Skills

**Describe the deliverables or products expected from the MCH Title V Internship team by the end of the summer.**
• Adolescent Resilience Report Minnesota • Recommended data model(s) for resilience to recommended template for standard report for local communities • Infographics (2 or more) • PowerPoint presentation • Participation in/facilitation of community conversations (2 or more) • Written and/or Video summary of community/individual stories

**Please indicate whether there is affordable housing available for the students near your agency.**
Unsure
Briefly describe the project (or projects) in which the students will be involved and how the project(s) relates to your Title V action plan.
New Jersey is among the top 6 high burden states for the Zika Virus. The Zika Virus has an impact across all MCH programs. Zika has the potential to lead to poor birth outcomes and birth defects in the neonate. The MCH programs available in New Jersey desire to meet the needs of neonates and women affected by the Zika Virus. Last year, students in the Title V MCH internship developed a Zika Prevention Kit (ZPK) for agencies who work with women most vulnerable to Zika, such as local health departments, WIC, and Federally Qualified Health Centers. Continuing our efforts to address Zika in our state, New Jersey has implemented several CDC recommended interventions such as the Zika Pregnancy Registry and other programs to supported families impacted by Zika. Our agency would like students to evaluate existing Zika related programs and assist our agency in strategizing how to increase the effectiveness of our interventions. New Jersey distributed 13,000 ZPKs to communities at high risk for the Zika Virus. Currently, a screening tool is being used to track the risk status of women who received the kits and how many kits were distributed. We hope to build on the efforts of the 2016 student intern team and conduct a process evaluation with stakeholders who assisted in the distribution of the tool kits.

A second priority is to further understand the needs and the social determinants of women most impacted by the Zika Virus. An estimated 90% of women with Zika in New Jersey are undocumented. This has posed a barrier to our agency’s intervention efforts. To understand women and families most impacted by Zika, students will utilize data to describe the target population’s needs as they navigate through public health and health care systems. These projects are well suited for students in MCH programs who have interests in emergency preparedness, immigrant health and evaluation.

List 2-3 overall project objectives for the joint project that the students will work on and then describe the activities you envision them engaging in to achieve these objectives.

**Objective 1:** Students will work with agency staff to conduct a process evaluation of current Zika related- programs. Students will examine data from after-action meetings that will begin in January 2017 and the Zika Prevention Kit to evaluate the effectiveness of Zika Prevention Kit Distribution. The results of this evaluation will inform NJDOH next steps to enhance the ZPK Distribution.

**Objective 2:** In line with CDC guidelines, New Jersey has created the Zika Pregnancy Registry to follow up with women who have tested positive for Zika and their neonates/infants up to the age of 1. Students will examine data from existing charts and graphs, along with data gathered from our agency’s perinatal risk assessment utilized by community health workers, to understand the social determinants of health of women vulnerable to Zika. Students will gather data to conduct a mini-needs assessment for populations most impacted by Zika and synthesize results in a report with an accompanying infographic. Our hope is that this report can lead to potential recommendations on how to better serve these women, who are mostly immigrant, and better target our agency’s intervention efforts.

What skills are required for the project(s)?
Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Program Planning, Program Evaluation, Literature review, Community Assessment, Qualitative Methods (Implementation and Analysis),
Facilitation Skills, Survey Development, Synthesis of Information, Effective Communication Skills, & Effective Presentation Skills

Describe the deliverables or products expected from the MCH Title V Internship team by the end of the summer.
Evaluation Report of agency’s Zika related efforts • Mini-needs assessment of women vulnerable to Zika • Descriptive Report stating needs of population most impacted by Zika • Infographic depicting findings of mini-needs assessment

Please indicate whether there is affordable housing available for the students near your agency. Yes
Agency: Ohio Department of Health  
Division: Bureau of Maternal, Child and Family Health  
City: Columbus, Ohio

**Briefly describe the project (or projects) in which the students will be involved and how the project (s) relates to your Title V action plan.**

Priority Project #1) Conduct Ohio specific research and draft a proposal with recommendations for increasing consumer and family engagement throughout MCH and Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) programs. This project directly relates to MCH Priorities 1 - 9, and findings from the latest Block Grant (BG) Needs Assessment to increase consumer and family engagement in all MCH programs. This project also adheres to the Title V BG Guidance “to provide and promote family-centered, community-based, coordinated care, and to reflect improvements and/or changes in such areas as a state’s level of commitment to consistently engaging family/consumer partnerships in Title V MCH and CYSHCN programmatic and decision-making efforts. Priority Project #2) Conduct research and identify evidence-based strategies that will standardize programmatic approaches to providing preconception/interconception care across Ohio. Utilizing information from ODH programs that serve women of child bearing age (Home Visiting (HV), Reproductive Health and Wellness Program (RHWP), Maternal and Child Health (MCP) and WIC), develop a proposal for addressing preconception/interconception care, targeting populations that have poorer health outcomes such as racial/ethnic minorities and low-income communities. Provide specific implementation strategies, inclusive of educational materials and a public awareness campaign. This project directly relates to Ohio's Title V MCH Priority #1 (Reduce the rate of Infant Mortality and Disparities) and #3 (Increase the prevalence of women receiving preconception care), and incorporates a life course model perspective as an organizing framework for addressing identified needs of women and men of childbearing age. The project would also adhere to the Title V BG Guidance of “providing comprehensive care for all women before, during, and after pregnancy and childbirth”.

**List 2-3 overall project objectives for the joint project that the students will work on and then describe the activities you envision them engaging in to achieve these objectives.**

**Objective 1:** By August 2017, the Title V MCH Internship team will have conducted key informant interviews and/or facilitated affinity groups with stakeholders. Students will use data from these interviews to design a statewide consumer and family engagement social marketing campaign to increase consumer and family awareness and participation in MCH and CYSHCN programs in Ohio.

**Objective 2:** By August 2017, based on a review of ODH programs that serve women of childbearing age and a literature review, MCH Title V Internship students will identify specific steps that address disparities, inclusive of the life course perspective, for preconception and interconception health interventions that assist women and men of child bearing age to think about their behaviors, lifestyle and medical conditions in order to live healthy before, during, and after pregnancy and childbirth.

**What skills are required for the project(s)?**
Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Program Planning, Program Evaluation, Literature review, Community Assessment, Qualitative Methods (Implementation and Analysis), Facilitation Skills, Survey Development, Synthesis of Information, Effective Communication Skills, Effective Presentation Skills, Effective Writing Skills, Ability to work with an interdisciplinary team,
Ability to work independently, Strong organization skills, Effective oral and written communication skills, Understanding of how to translate public health data into actionable information, Familiarity with current and emerging MCH and preconception health issues, Exposure to statistical software, such as SAS, Excellent attention to detail

Describe the deliverables or products expected from the MCH Title V Internship team by the end of the summer.

Undergraduate Student Activities • Assist with all literature reviews and research • Conduct key informant interviews and/or facilitate affinity group meetings in order to obtain feedback and input from consumers, family members, stakeholders, and other interested parties. • Take notes during key informant interviews and/or affinity group meetings • Assist with coding information from key informant interviews and/or affinity group meetings, under the direction of the graduate student intern • Format final report based on key themes • Research potential data sources for the consumer and family engagement study • Create drafts of presentations • Co-present findings to Ohio’s MCH Leadership Team and other Title V stakeholders

Graduate Student Activities • Assist with all literature reviews and research • Provide leadership for conducting the key informant interviews and/or affinity group meetings facilitated process • Conduct key informant interviews and/or facilitate affinity group meetings in order to obtain feedback and input from consumers, family members, stakeholders, and other interested parties. • Develop key questions for interviews and meetings • Analyze results of the key informant interviews and develop key themes from the affinity group meetings • Develop final report based on key themes and recommendations • Co-present findings to Ohio’s MCH Leadership Team and other Title V stakeholders

Please indicate whether there is affordable housing available for the students near your agency.
Yes
Agency: Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Division: Bureau of Family Health  
City: Harrisburg, PA 17120

Briefly describe the project (or projects) in which the students will be involved and how the project(s) relates to your Title V action plan.

The Bureau of Family Health (Bureau), within the Pennsylvania Department of Health, is requesting a student intern team from the Title V MCH Internship Program to assist staff on two workforce development projects. The primary project relates directly to the Title V Block Grant priority of increasing understanding and use of data in programming. The secondary project focuses on introducing staff to and improving their capacity to utilize social marketing strategies within current and future programming. The results of both projects will continue beyond the internship period.

The Bureau recognizes the need to improve the way it collects, analyzes, and uses data to ensure the most efficacious use of public funds for MCH programming, and has defined the following priority as part of Pennsylvania’s Title V State Action Plan: Title V staff and grantees identify, collect, and use relevant data to inform decision-making and evaluate population and programmatic needs. The Bureau has since implemented several key changes to address this priority. A workgroup, comprised of several Bureau staff, has been conducting interviews with Program Administrators to assess data knowledge and usage, and to identify gaps in order to inform future training and education. Additionally, the Bureau is working towards creating a Data Management division and hiring a public health epidemiologist to enhance data driven decision-making as well as to continuously monitor and assess the maternal and child health population in the state. The Bureau’s primary project request is for the intern team to analyze the qualitative information gathered by the workgroup, determine methods for improving workforce capacity in this area, and create a strategic work plan that can be implemented by the Bureau over a two-year period.

The secondary project the Bureau requests assistance with from the student intern team is to improve the Bureau’s capacity in utilizing social marketing. Social marketing is defined as using marketing principles to influence human behavior in order to improve health or benefit society. Much of the Bureau’s marketing efforts to date have involved increasing awareness of programs and services, rather than being a mechanism to change behaviors to improve public health. The vision is for the intern team to evaluate current efforts within the Bureau, conduct literature and other reviews of evidence, as well as other states’ use of social marketing strategies. The intern team would then provide necessary training and education to staff on what was learned, as well as provide an action plan for using social marketing strategies within specific programs.

List 2-3 overall project objectives for the joint project that the students will work on and then describe the activities you envision them engaging in to achieve these objectives.

**Objective 1:** In order to strengthen the Bureau’s workforce capacity, interns will conduct an analysis of the information collected regarding data knowledge, skills, abilities and needs of staff in order to provide a two-year strategic work plan to Bureau leadership to improve the capacity of staff around data and its use. Activities will include analysis of qualitative data, development of work plan and presentation of the work result to Bureau leadership.
Objective 2: Interns will research social marketing strategies, conduct an assessment of its use within Bureau programs, review other states’ usage of social marketing and develop a report for staff on information researched as well as recommendations for implementation. Activities include conducting research online and through other methods, synthesizing a variety of information, and report and recommendation writing.

Objective 3: Interns will develop and present a training on both topics to current staff in the Bureau and provide a two-year action plan for project sustainability. Activities include development of training materials and presenting materials to a large group.

What skills are required for the project(s)?
Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Program Planning, Program Evaluation, Literature review, Qualitative Methods (Implementation and Analysis), Facilitation Skills, Synthesis of Information, Effective Communication Skills, Effective Presentation Skills

Describe the deliverables or products expected from the MCH Title V Internship team by the end of the summer.
It is expected that upon completion of the internship, the Bureau will receive comprehensive, detailed strategic work plans that the Bureau can then implement over a two-year period of time in both the use of data as well as social marketing. Additionally, the interns will have conducted presentations to staff on social marketing and data skills.

Please indicate whether there is affordable housing available for the students near your agency.
Yes
Texas – Project #1

Agency: Texas Department of Health  
Division: Children with Special Health Care Needs, Title V Maternal and Child Health  
City: Austin, TX

Briefly describe the project (or projects) in which the students will be involved and how the project(s) relates to your Title V action plan.

During our Title V Five Year Needs Assessment, focus group participants (stakeholders involved with CYSHCN) said they feel alone in their journey regardless of the community’s resources, accessibility or activities available. Others perceived their community as excluding them with harsh judgment, thoughtless actions, cruel words and impatience. As a result, parents look for support from other parents of CYSHCN. Parents noted a lack of programs and facilities that can accommodate their children and stressed a need for more inclusive sports activities and community-wide events.

Access to needed resources helps assure that children grow up in families and participate in their communities with a strong sense of belonging. The extent to which communities are accessible, welcoming and have sufficient support services helps minimize the sense of isolation experienced by CYSHCN and their families. Therefore, utilizing the results of the Five-Year Needs Assessment, stakeholder engagement, and building upon work from previous years, the CSHCN Services Program developed a state performance measure (SPM) supporting improved community integration for CYSHCN and their families.

Title V Interns will complete a literature review of community integration for disparate populations, including those with disabilities and/or special health care needs, and review of best practices in digital engagement. Using this information, the team will formulate an operational definition for community integration, begin building a foundation of evidence-based practices, and develop recommendations for Title V activities related to State Performance Measure (SPM) 1: Percent of CYSHCN and their families who received the supports and services necessary to be integrated into their communities.

Interns will also work together to plan and develop an intervention for providers in Texas to strengthen community integration and inclusion for CYSHCN and their families. The intervention will relate to current goals and objectives for SPM 1.

List 2-3 overall project objectives for the joint project that the students will work on and then describe the activities you envision them engaging in to achieve these objectives.

Objective 1: Make recommendations for Title V activities related to SPM 1 on Community Integration based on the following:

- State Action Plan Table
- Program Logic Model
- Ongoing Needs Assessment data
- Literature Review
- Review of best practices in digital engagement
Objective 2: Develop (and begin to implement) an action plan for the intervention that includes:
  o Description of intervention and proposed content
  o Connection to the program logic model
  o Anticipated barriers or challenges
  o Projected reach
  o Mode of delivery including use of the GovDelivery electronic messaging system
  o Resources required
  o Stakeholder involvement
  o Mechanism for family and youth feedback and opportunities to strengthen family professional partnerships
  o Mechanism for evaluation / monitoring

Objective 3: Project presentation for Title V staff, partners and relevant key stakeholders

What skills are required for the project(s)?
Microsoft Word, Program Planning, Program Evaluation, Literature Review Skills, Qualitative Methods (Implementation), Synthesis of Information, & Effective Communication Skills

Describe the deliverables or products expected from the MCH Title V Internship team by the end of the summer (even if the project will be ongoing).
  • Literature Review
  • Operational definition of community integration for youth and young adults with disabilities
  • Report on review of best practices in digital engagement (digital public health programming)
  • Intervention action plan
  • Project presentation

Please indicate whether there is affordable housing available for the students near your agency.  
Yes
Agency: Texas Department of State Health Services  
Division: Family and Community Health Services (FCHS) Division, Maternal and Child Health Unit  
City: Austin, Texas

Briefly describe the project (or projects) in which the students will be involved and how the project(s) relates to your Title V action plan.

The student interns will jointly oversee completion of the qualitative components of a gap analysis to inform strategic action planning for improving preconception and interconception health and health care (PCHHC) in Texas. Specifically, the interns will facilitate communication and information collection through interviews, listening sessions, and/or focus groups with an array of DSHS public health partners to learn about opportunities and barriers within DSHS’ direct sphere of influence for improving PCHHC. After collecting information, the interns will synthesize findings and communicate findings and recommendations for action to key decision makers and other stakeholders. This work will assist DSHS in focusing strategic planning efforts and inform development of a state action plan for improving PCHHC.

By contributing to a larger landscape assessment for PCHHC in Texas, this joint project directly supports Texas’ Title V action plan to implement state Strategy 3 for National Priority Measure 1, percent of women with a past year preventive medical visit. Strategy 3 is to assess the landscape for support of preconception health initiatives throughout the state and to partner with public and private organizations, coalitions, clinicians, health plans, family advocates and other stakeholders to increase capacity, synergy and collective impact of initiatives to improve women’s health and health care delivery. This strategy also serves to address the State Priority Need to provide support to promote quality in primary care, women’s health, and specialty services.

In addition to the joint project, interns may choose to select an additional mentored experience including shadowing a maternal and child health (MCH) subject matter expert (SME) and completing a relevant mini-project of their choosing, as developed in collaboration with the appropriate MCH SME. Examples of MCH SME topical areas are reflected in Texas-selected Title V national and state performance measures, including focus on women’s health, breastfeeding, safe sleep, developmental screening, injury prevention, adolescent transition, medical home, tobacco prevention and reduction of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, community integration of children with special health care needs, childhood obesity, reduction of disparities in infant mortality, and preventive health care among young adults.

List 2-3 overall project objectives for the joint project that the students will work on and then describe the activities you envision them engaging in to achieve these objectives.

**Project Objective 1:** Solicit and collect input from key public health partners about barriers and opportunities for implementation of recommended PCHHC practices.

**Anticipated activities and timeline:**

**Weeks 1-3:**

- **General Orientation:** The initial task of the interns will be to become familiar with the organizational structure, functions, and personnel of the FCHS Division as relevant to PCHHC. The interns will be provided with supervision, guidance, and support from the Primary, Secondary, and backup mentors while receiving a general orientation to the agency, especially to those areas of DSHS that intersect with
PCHHC. Orientation will also include familiarization with the social, political, and cultural environment of women’s and preconception health and health services in Texas and with background information about key partners and stakeholders in women’s and preconception health. Meetings will be arranged to orient the interns with broad awareness about Title V MCH priorities, MCH SMEs, and MCH public health partners.

- **Project Orientation:** A series of meetings and presentations will be provided to most efficiently transfer knowledge to interns regarding the DSHS PCHHC framework development and assessment work to date. Prior to the summer internship, DSHS MCH SMEs will complete foundational landscape assessment work to inform the PCHHC gap analysis. This will include review and collation of PCHHC indicators, seminal literature, best and promising practices, and current programs, policies, guidelines, and messaging within DSHS’ sphere of influence and relevant to DSHS PCHHC priorities. SMEs will also initiate contact and communication with key public health partners to orient them to this work and solicit anticipated availability and their participation in data collection activities to be conducted by the student interns.

- **Mini-project identification:** Interns and MCH SMEs will discuss potential mini-project opportunities during the orientation process. Interns will choose their preferred shadowing and/or mini-project opportunity by the 2nd week and will work with the mentor(s) and appropriate MCH SME to develop a work plan to outline the project, responsibilities, and timeline.

**Weeks 1-9:**
- **Ongoing orientation and mentorship:** Interns will meet regularly with mentors for ongoing orientation, mentorship, and input to/updates about ongoing development of components of the gap analysis that will be finalized with information collected through the join project.

**Weeks 2-4:**
- **Planning and development:**
  - In consultation with mentors and informed by SMEs completed foundational assessment work, interns will identify and prioritize areas for which focused qualitative information is most needed to complete a PCHHC gap analysis.
  - Interns will oversee identification and development of methods (e.g. key informant interviews, focus groups, listening sessions), implementation tools (e.g. interview guides, focus group guides, brainstorming tools), data collection tools, and meeting schedules (within previously identified parameters of partners’ availability) for collecting information from public health partners.

**Weeks 4-6:**
- **Implementation:** Interns (with support from mentors) will implement chosen methods, using chosen tools, to collect information from public health partners to complete gap analysis.

**Project Objective 2:** Analyze and synthesize collected information to complete gap analysis.

**Weeks 4-8:** Interns will analyze collected information using informal methods and, in collaboration with mentors and public health partners, will synthesize the collected information to complete the gap analysis. The interns will work with mentors to synthesize information from the gap analysis and the previously conducted foundational landscape assessment work and make recommendations to inform development of a DSHS PCHHC action plan.

**Project Objective 3:** Communicate findings and recommendations to key decision makers and PCHHC stakeholders.

**Weeks 1-3:** Interns will become oriented to the potential audiences (including key decision makers and stakeholders). Interns will work with mentors to identify the target audience(s) and preferred method(s) (e.g. presentation, webinar, written report, material) for communication of finding and recommendations. A timeline will be developed and any needed meetings or events will be scheduled.

**Weeks 5-7:** Interns will begin to develop communication plans and materials.
**Weeks 8-9:** Interns will disseminate communication(s) to target audience(s).

**What skills are required for the project(s)?**
Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Program Planning, Community Assessment, Qualitative Methods (Implementation), Facilitation Skills, Survey Development, Synthesis of Information, Effective Communication Skills, & Effective Presentation Skills

**Describe the deliverables or products expected from the MCH Title V internship team by the end of the summer.**
The MCH Title V internship team will collaborate with project mentors to complete a written PCHHC gap analysis, and will deliver completed products by the end of the summer internship including documentation of collected data from public health partner input and intern-developed communication material(s) summarizing findings and recommendations to inform development of a PCHHC action plan.

**Please indicate whether there is affordable housing available for the students near your agency.**
Yes
Agency: Vermont Department of Health  
Division: Maternal and Child Health  
City: Burlington, Vermont

Briefly describe the project (or projects) in which the students will be involved and how the project(s) relates to your Title V action plan.

Advance the division’s strategic efforts related to preconception health and well women care through the development of outreach materials and strategies to primary care providers. Develop consumer messaging and education materials to increase awareness of importance of preconception health/well - women visits, and birth control options, in collaboration with community and state partners. Advance the division’s strategic priorities related to injury prevention, specifically as it relates to women’s health in the agricultural professions. Activities could include: research and creation of key components of patient education materials for women who are pregnant, postpartum or breastfeeding and who work in a farm/agricultural related setting.

List 2-3 overall project objectives for the joint project that the students will work on and then describe the activities you envision them engaging in to achieve these objectives.

**Objective 1:** To improve the rate and quality of annual well-women/preconception health care visits in the primary health care setting  
- Help to identify tools and materials for primary care settings and community settings  
- Develop a “package” of materials and tools for primary care providers to improve well women/preconception health care visits  
- Develop an outreach plan to disseminate materials  
- Develop a plan to orient/train health care providers using academic detailing to improve well women/preconception health care visits  
- Pilot this training in 1-3 sites

**Objective 2:** Increase awareness among health care providers and consumers around key issues for women who are pregnant, postpartum or breastfeeding and who work in a farm/agricultural related setting  
- Summary of literature review  
- Patient education pamphlet  
- Development of other social media materials: podcast, blog posting  
- Slide presentation for women farmer audience or health care professionals

What skills are required for the project(s)?

Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Program Planning, Literature review, Facilitation Skills, Synthesis of Information, Effective Communication Skills, & Effective Presentation Skills

Describe the deliverables or products expected from the MCH Title V Internship team by the end of the summer.

See above. Overall, deliverables would include a literature review of existing materials and strategies, development of communication materials (traditional print, as well as social media), and training materials and plans for increasing awareness. Deliverables and products will be partially dependent on skills and interests of students.

Please indicate whether there is affordable housing available for the students near your agency.  

Yes