



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

Request for Graduate Student Assistant

Internship Title Toolkit to Evaluate Completion of Tuberculosis Therapy

Location of Project ESP – Corning Tower – Room 840

Number of Positions Available 1

Area(s) of Concentration

Please indicate the area(s) of concentration most applicable to the project(s)

Epidemiology Social Behavior/Community Health _____

Health Policy and Management _____ Environmental Health _____

Biomedical Sciences _____ Biostatistics _____

Internship Funding

Please indicate whether this position will be funded through your organization.

Yes _____ (If Yes, please specify amount available _____)

No

If no, please indicate if you are applying for funding under either of the following:

MCHBG _____ (NYSDOH Maternal and Child Health Block Grant)

PHLOT (Public Health Management Leaders of Tomorrow Program)

Project Description

Please provide a brief summary of the following. (Attach additional sheets as necessary.)

Project Background and Goals:

As resources to control tuberculosis decline at all levels of government, it is increasingly important to ensure control programs are effective and efficient. In a time of diminishing resources and increasingly overworked program staff, the addition of any new task is perceived as a further drain on resources and is generally resisted. It is precisely this conflict which will create a barrier to implementation of a new effort, i.e., introducing a new task (the toolkit) to an already busy staff. Without the cooperation of all staff, the process of self-evaluation and program improvement is doomed to failure. To overcome this barrier, the BTBC, with funding from CDC, provided staff for the initial implementation, testing and assessment of selected components of the toolkit. Analysis of indicators/outcomes of toolkit components will show programs where improvements in performance/effectiveness/efficiency can be achieved. The purpose of this project is to pilot test draft TB program evaluation tools. Tuberculosis Control Programs in each county, working in conjunction with the Bureau of Tuberculosis Control will select appropriate tools to conduct self-evaluation, assess the feasibility of those tools and offer observations, suggestions, and

recommendations regarding how the tools might be refined to better measure program performance, or streamline their use.

Student's Role in Project:

The student will participate in program evaluation by conducting primary data collection at county health departments in the greater Capital Region. Data will be keyed and analyzed using SAS or other appropriate software. Results will be summarized and compared to findings from the larger study. The student task (under direction of 3 bureau members) will be to assess data generated through the record review to determine factors associated with completing or failure to complete TB therapy within 12 months (when disease conditions permit). Computer skills to manipulate the data (SAS), statistical skills to determine significance, and writing skills to draft the report will be required.

Expected Student Outcomes and Deliverables:

The student will develop tabular and graphic presentations of the data with statistical testing where appropriate. The student will present findings to the staff of the Bureau of TB Control. The student will draft components of a paper (literature review, methods, findings, discussion conclusions, etc.)

Project Duration and Scheduling Considerations: Flexible, 20 hours for 24 weeks

College Coursework and/or other Prerequisite: Epidemiology, Statistics, SAS

For additional information, please contact Lynley Thomson, Internship Coordinator, at lthomson@uamail.albany.edu