

Capacity-Building Opportunity for STD Programs and Organizations

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention & Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Program Evaluation Practicum – January 2023

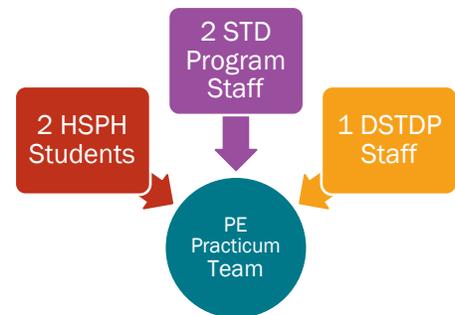
Application Deadline:
Friday, Sept. 9, 2022

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (HSPH) Program Evaluation Practicum is a unique learning and experiential opportunity for students and public health programs. HSPH students enrolled in the course are matched with a state or local STD control program or CDC-funded Community Approaches to Reducing Sexually Transmitted Diseases (CARS) recipients to develop a comprehensive evaluation plan. Teams are comprised of **two HSPH students, two STD program staff, and a CDC/Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) staff member.**

Overview

HSPH students and staff from selected programs will attend an **in-person**¹ 4-day, no cost, beginner's-level program evaluation training (January 3-6, 2023) in Atlanta, GA at the CDC. This will be followed by an **in-person** field week at the field site where HSPH students meet with stakeholders and local program constituents to gain additional insights and further develop the program's evaluation plan (January 9-13, 2023).

Upon completion of the practicum, the HSPH students submit the final evaluation plans to the participating programs and receive credit hours for their MPH; participating programs receive evaluation training and a detailed evaluation plan to implement.



Who Should Apply?

- STD prevention and control programs (e.g., state and local health departments, or their public and non-governmental partners with the support of the STD control program, and PS19-1901 (STD PCHD) funding recipients) working to improve STD (or related MCH or Reproductive Health) outcomes, that are in need of a developed evaluation plan **or** a CDC-funded CARS recipients that need a developed evaluation plan.
- Program staff with the interest and ability to (1) commit to a 4-day, intensive in-person learning experience and (2) facilitate the work between HSPH students and the program to create an evaluation plan.
- Programs with an interest and need to implement an evaluation project in the next year.

“The logic model (that was a product of the Practicum) helped the program organize thoughts about the program goal; subsequently, the framework was used as the foundation for a proposal that was funded.”

- Previous Program Participant

¹ **PLEASE NOTE:** For the Week 1 in-person training held at CDC (Atlanta, GA), visitors must verify they are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 OR provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test OR professionally-proctored antigen test taken in the three days before coming on-site when the CDC facility's COVID-19 community level is medium or high. When it's required, visitors must show verification of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID-19 test each day they visit. We will inform you of the community level and any other relevant information prior to your visit.

What are the Benefits?

- Participation in an **in-person** 4-day intensive course in public health evaluation taught by HSPH and CDC faculty in Atlanta, GA.
- Engagement in didactic and experiential learning and training on logic model development, evaluation design, selection of indicators, data sources and real-world evaluation.
- Exposure to available CDC resources for program evaluation technical assistance and capacity building.
- Programs receive a comprehensive evaluation plan to guide future implementation.

What are the Costs to Participate?

- There are no costs to participants. CDC sponsors travel for program staff to participate in the training week in Atlanta. The costs for travel and lodging will be covered for two program staff.
- Participating STD programs and organizations are eligible to apply for additional funding (~\$5,000) from the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) to advance implementation of evaluation efforts following completion of the Practicum. NNPHI will collaborate with participating STD programs or organizations to share available funds to support additional staffing, training, and other activities related to STD program evaluation.

How does this relate to the Targeted Evaluation

Projects (TEPs) or the NNPHI Evaluation and Program Improvement Scholars Program (EPIS) for PS19-1901 (STD PCHD) Funded Recipients?

- Programs funded under PS19-1901 may use this opportunity to develop new TEPs.
- Programs funded under PS19-1901 may use this to plan evaluations outside of the TEP requirement of STD PCHD and/or the EPIS program.
- Programs participating in EPIS may use the PE Practicum to complement EPIS training and learning opportunities.
- The comprehensive evaluation plan would be much more detailed than a TEP plan (i.e., more background and detail, including draft data collection instruments and related materials).

How to Apply

- Submit a description of the program to be evaluated, using the attached **STD Program/Organization Proposal form**. Descriptions should be no more than 600 words to be considered for inclusion in the January 2023 cohort of STD programs. In addition to the program description, please include the names and titles for up to two potential participants from STD program staff and, if applicable, include the CDC assigned field staff (e.g., epidemiologist or public health advisor). **Please see the proposal form for details regarding time commitment and expectations.**
- Email any questions and the completed STD Program/Organization Proposal form to Christina Chung (cchung@cdc.gov) by **Friday, September 9, 2022**.

2022 STD Program Participants

Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Express Testing, Cerro Gordo County Public Health (Iowa)

Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP), Chicago Department of Public Health

The Impact of Increased Funding and Rapid Growth on Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) Workforce Attitudes and Job Satisfaction as Well as Partner Service Outcomes, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Development of an Evaluation Framework for At-Home Testing Program North Dakota Department of Health

STD Unit: Chlamydia Management Program, Orange County Department of Health (New York)

Congenital Syphilis Prevention Task Force QI efforts, San Francisco Department of Public Health

Additional Information on Participant Roles, Responsibilities, and Timelines

Participant Roles and Responsibilities	 Prevention and Control Programs and CDC CARS (Community Approaches to Reducing Sexually Transmitted Diseases) Recipients	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Division of STD Prevention)	Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Recruitment, Selection & Matching Sept. – Dec. 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs submit proposals for 2 staff to participate in the program evaluation practicum Once selected, review pre-practicum materials, prepare background information about the program for course participants and arrange meetings with local program constituents during the field week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSTDP reviews program proposals, selects up to 3-5 program areas (2 staff per area) to participate and provides the program proposals to the HSPH for the matching process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSPH reviews student CVs and motivation statements and matches teams of 2 MPH students enrolled in the course with a selected public health program
Evaluation Training Jan. 3 – 6, 2023 <i>In-Person at CDC Atlanta, GA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program staff attend in-person intensive 4-day course in program evaluation Program staff dedicate time to and participate fully in the practicum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDC staff facilitate training and small group sessions, provide technical assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSPH faculty facilitate training and small group sessions Students attend intensive 4-day course in program evaluation
Evaluation Plan Development Jan. 9– 13, 2023 <i>In-Person at Program Area Locations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program staff facilitate students during the in-person field week Program staff dedicate time to facilitating students, as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSTDP staff provide technical assistance remotely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students meet with stakeholders and local program constituents to learn about the program and present the evaluation plan concept to program staff and stakeholders
Evaluation Plan Finalized Jan. 16 – 27, 2023 <i>Respective Home Locations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program provides input on the proposed plan to the students Program receives the final plan after the students consider review and comments by their team and course faculty (CDC & HSPH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSTDP staff review and provide feedback on the evaluation plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students complete a final evaluation plan write-up, consolidating input from the program HSPH faculty provide feedback on the evaluation plan

