



Region IV Public Health Training Center

Region IV Public Health Training Center Pathways to Practice Scholar Field Placement Program Tennessee – Spring Scholar Position

AGENCY: Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Healthcare Statistics-Division of Population Health Assessment

POSITION TITLE: Tennessee Department of Health Intern

LOCATION: Andrew Johnson Tower, 710 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243

AGENCY WEBSITES: <https://www.tn.gov/health>

NUMBER OF POSITIONS AVAILABLE: 1 (Spring 2026)

DESIRED START DATES: January 2026

* Interested students should apply as soon as possible. Applications are reviewed and considered in the order they are received. Submit to Elizabeth Kidwell at elkidwell@emory.edu

Note: To apply to more than one posting, submit separate applications specifying the position title in the subject line. Please be specific in your email *and* cover letter.

DESCRIPTION:

The following position is offered as a field placement through the [Region IV Public Health Training Center](#).

NOTE: This position has the option to be 100% remote, but the student is expected to reside in Tennessee for the duration of the internship.

The mission of the Tennessee Department of Health is to protect, promote, and improve the health and well-being of all people in Tennessee. The Tennessee Department of Health (specifically, Central Office) is located in Nashville, TN. It serves as the head office for 89 of the state's rural/county health departments that operate under it. The Department collaborates with the 6 urban/metro health departments across the state, which operate under their local governance. The Central Office's organizational structure consists of 2 primary columns which house the major public health functions and programs for the agency; also, within the agency are supportive offices serving for media/communication, general counsel, administrative/finance, and licensing.

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

The intern will help establish health surveillance of the aging population in Tennessee by using existing health data collected by the state. This may include data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Hospital Discharge Data Systems (HDDS) database and Vital Statistics data. Data may also be collected from other federal and state sources. The intern will conduct initial planning research, review the existing data(sets), and assist in setting parameters for the surveillance system.

The objective of the activity is to assist with compiling and maintaining data, as well as providing statistical information regarding the Healthy Aging Surveillance datasets.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Proficiency with Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, and PowerPoint

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Strong analytical background
- Good oral and written communication skills

THE STUDENT WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST WITH THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

- Conduct initial planning research
- Review different datasets
- Transform data and maintain processes
- Perform statistical analysis of the data and produce factsheets or report

PUBLIC HEALTH COMPETENCIES/SKILLS STUDENT MAY STRENGTHEN DURING PLACEMENT:

1. Policy Development/Engagement
2. Problem Solving
3. Data Analytics/Assessment/Data-based Decision Making
4. Public Health Science
5. Effective Communication
6. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

TRAVEL: No

POSITION TYPE: Region IV Public Health Training Center Field Placements (for MPH/MSPH students)

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:

Preference will be given to masters or doctoral level public health graduate students. Graduate Sociology students may also be considered. Undergraduate public health students (juniors and seniors) may also be considered. Students must complete the program prior to graduation. [Past recipients of the Pathways to Practice Award are not eligible to apply again.](#)

- Please include a cover letter with the following:
 - The semesters you are applying for (Spring 2026)
 - The title of the position you are applying to
 - Citizenship or permanent resident visa status
- Please include a resume with the following:
 - The name and department of your degree program
 - Year of study
 - Expected graduation date

WORK AUTHORIZATION: U.S. Citizen, Permanent U.S. Resident

Citizenship statement: The Region IV Public Health Training Center is a federally funded program which has a citizenship requirement. To be eligible to apply for this position, you must be either a U.S. citizen, a non-citizen U.S. national, or a foreign national having in your possession a visa permitting permanent residence in the U.S.

AWARD LEVEL: \$3,500 award

* Note: Travel costs will not be covered by the program beyond the total \$3,500 award.

APPROXIMATE HOURS PER WEEK & DURATION: Approximately 20 hours a week for 16 weeks.

**Students may be limited in the minimum or maximum number of hours they can work per semester based on their university, school or degree's policies. If this work will also be used as a graduation requirement, the student should verify those requirements and abide by their university policies.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Please read the “*Student Scholar Field Placement Guidebook*” for more details about the Pathways to Practice Scholars Program and requirements. It is located on the Field Placements page of the Region IV PHTC website: <https://r4phtc.org/field-placements/>

TO APPLY: Please submit the required documents following specifications above (**writing sample, resume, and cover letter** indicating the agency name and citizenship/visa status) to Elizabeth Kidwell, elkidwell@emory.edu with the subject line “**Spring 2026 Applicant: TDH**”

*PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY