



Region IV Public Health Training Center

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

AGENCY: Afya Care and Treatment Services

POSITION TITLE: Afya Care and Treatment Services Intern

LOCATION: 119 3rd Street South Ste 2 Columbus, MS

AGENCY WEBSITES: www.afyacare.org

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 conducted on a hybrid basis.

Afya Care and Treatment Services is a community-based healthcare organization providing comprehensive, compassionate, and accessible care across rural Mississippi. Founded in 2024, Afya's mission is to eliminate barriers to healthcare and empower individuals and families to lead healthier lives through innovative care, outreach, and education.

Afya offers integrated services including behavioral health counseling, substance-use treatment, primary care, medical nutrition therapy, and case management. The organization also provides HIV and sexual health services through the Ryan White Part B program, along with health education and workforce readiness initiatives such as the SKILL (Supporting Knowledge, Independence, Learning, and Livelihood) program.

By combining clinical care with social support and strong local partnerships, Afya delivers coordinated, culturally responsive care to communities across Northeast and Central Mississippi, including Lowndes, Attala, Choctaw, Clay, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Tallahatchie, and Webster Counties.

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

The student will support initiatives that expand healthcare access and strengthen the behavioral health workforce across rural Mississippi. The student will contribute to projects such as the Mississippi Behavioral Health Careers Opportunity Program (MSBHCOP), assisting with training design, data analysis, and community engagement. They will also support the Ryan White Part B Program through quality improvement, outreach, and research focused on treatment adherence, stigma reduction, and barriers to care. Additional activities may include assisting with coordination and evaluation for the SKILL

Program, which integrates job readiness and behavioral health support, and collaborating with Afya's Public Health Informatics and Evaluation Team on applied research, data analysis, and report writing.

This internship is ideal for students interested in behavioral health, applied research, and community-based health programs.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and adhere to ethical research and client care standards.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Coursework or experience in behavioral health, HIV care, community health, health equity, business administration, or public policy.
- Skills in data collection, analysis, and program evaluation (Qualtrics, Excel, or similar).
- Prior experience with community outreach, health education, or applied research.
- Demonstrated cultural humility, professionalism, and the ability to work collaboratively within a multidisciplinary team.

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

- Support Program Evaluation and Healthcare Research:
 - Assist with qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis across Afya's MSBHCOP, Ryan White Part B, and SKILL programs.
 - Compile evaluation reports that measure outcomes such as participant engagement, behavioral health workforce readiness, and client health improvements.
 - Conduct literature reviews and environmental scans to inform ongoing healthcare research and evidence-based practices.
- Contribute to MSBHCOP Workforce Development Activities:
 - Help design and implement training modules, mentorship events, and community engagement sessions for behavioral health career pipeline participants.
 - Analyze participant feedback and develop recommendations for improving training and recruitment strategies.
- Assist with Ryan White Part B Quality Improvement Initiatives:
 - Support data entry and analysis related to HIV care engagement, treatment adherence, and viral suppression outcomes.
 - Participate in outreach and education activities addressing stigma reduction, prevention, and linkage to care in rural and minority communities.
 - Aid in preparing materials for quarterly quality management and compliance reviews.
- Engage in SKILL Program Coordination:
 - Support job readiness and GED program operations, including participant tracking, data collection, and workshop facilitation.
 - Assist with behavioral health screening coordination and referrals for counseling or employment support.
- Develop Communication and Dissemination Materials:
 - Draft summaries, infographics, and presentations that communicate key program findings and health education content to community partners, funders, and stakeholders.

- Participate in community events, assisting with health education booths or information sessions

PUBLIC HEALTH COMPETENCIES/SKILLS STUDENT MAY STRENGTHEN DURING PLACEMENT:

1. Policy Development/Engagement
2. Program Planning
3. Budget and Financial Management
4. Community Partnership /Engagement
5. Leadership and Systems Thinking/Strategic Thinking
6. Data Analytics/ Assessment/Data- based Decision Making
7. Public Health Science
8. Effective Communication
9. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

TRAVEL: Yes (The student will primarily work at the administrative office, with occasional travel to the medical clinic or partner.)

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. Undergraduate public health students as well as graduate students studying sociology, psychology, or social work may also be considered. [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
- Please also include the following with your application:
 - Unofficial Transcript
 - Writing Sample

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 20-25 hours a week for 10-16 weeks.

The program will accommodate varying availability while ensuring the student can contribute effectively to the Health Buddies program and meet their academic requirements.

**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/>

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit the required documents following specifications above (**writing sample, unofficial transcript, 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: MS Afya Care**”

*PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY