

Potential Host Organizations FAQs about the UC Berkeley Public Health Bay Area Community Health Fellows Program

Geographic & Scope Eligibility

1. What organizations can apply? Community organizations and governmental entities working in focus areas (homelessness, addiction and recovery, community violence, and mental health) in Alameda County, the City and County of San Francisco, or the City of Richmond. As the program matures and we evaluate the needs of our students, host sites, and local health ecosystems, we may expand into adjacent Bay Area counties.

2. What projects will be eligible for the fellowship? Projects should focus on homelessness, addiction and recovery, community violence, and/or mental health. Projects should be scoped to be completed in 400 hours by a talented graduate student. While students range in their amount of formal work experience prior to starting their MPH, they are all enthusiastic and bring transferable skills from their combination of professional, academic, and lived experience. Academic research projects (e.g., formal research based at academic organizations) are not eligible.

What we will look for in your application is clear articulation of how the fellow's project supports these target topic areas/populations while helping build a stronger pipeline of public health leaders in community health.

3. We are not eligible for this opportunity but are interested in partnering with your students. Is that possible?

Absolutely and we encourage you to consider doing so! Explore opportunities to host a practicum during the summer or academic year by visiting our practicum hosting page: practicum.berkeley.edu (UC Berkeley School of Public Health, RISE Office).

Fellow Schedule & Expectations

4. What is the expected timeline for the summer fellowship, and how many hours do fellows work?

Fellows will complete a 400-hour practicum over a 10-week period in the May-August period, typically working 40 hours per week.

5. Can a fellow continue working with our organization beyond the 400 required summer hours?

Yes, host organizations and fellows may mutually agree to extend or continue a working relationship beyond the required 400 hours. However, please note that the Bay Area Community Health Fellows Program stipend only covers the required 400-hour summer practicum. Any additional hours or ongoing employment beyond that scope must be funded directly by the host organization.

6. How many fellow placements can a single organization apply for?

Organizations may submit proposals for multiple distinct fellow placements if they have the supervisory capacity and well-defined project scopes to support them. Each proposed position and application should represent a unique, meaningful project experience.

Application & Matching Process

7. What is the application timeline?

Organizations will apply in November and be notified that their projects are accepted in December. They will interview and rank students in January with confirmed student placements by early March. This timeline will give organizations ample time to review requirements, consult with internal leadership, and connect with our team for guidance.

8. What information is needed in the application due on November 20th?

Organizations will need to identify the primary department, hiring manager/supervisor, key public health issue, scope of work or project goals, and what skills are needed in their submission. The submission should also be compelling for students, since they will be comparing across multiple opportunities. Organizations do not need to submit a fully polished job description.

9. How does the student matching process work?

In January, host organizations will receive a curated pool of 2-3 qualified UC Berkeley MPH applicants who selected your project as a top preference and have skills and background matching your opportunity. We will share their resumes and other relevant materials. Host supervisors will interview candidates and then share their review and ranking of candidates. The UC Berkeley team will determine final matches based on student and organization rankings.

Financials & Supervision Support

10. Is there a cost to my organization to host a fellow?

This program provides direct financial support and stipends to student fellows for their 400-hour summer practicum at no cost to the host organizations. Host organizations provide the necessary space, equipment if needed (such as a workstation or laptop), and supervision and guidance for the fellow to complete their project successfully.

11. What are the requirements for hosting and supervising a fellow?

Host sites must designate a primary supervisor (what we call a preceptor) who will guide the fellow in completing their project, provide regular 1-on-1 mentorship, complete a brief mid-term and final performance evaluation, and orient the fellow to the organization's mission and community culture.

12. What are the requirements to serve as a practicum preceptor?

To learn about the responsibilities and expectations of preceptors, review the [MPH Practicum Preceptor Guidelines](#) (see page 3).

13. Are hybrid or remote fellowship placements allowed?

Because this fellowship emphasizes community-grounded leadership, we are only considering in-person or hybrid arrangements for the fellowship, allowing fellows to engage directly with community members and staff. Fully remote fellowships are not possible at this time.

More Questions?

14. I still have questions, who can I contact?

If you have any questions not answered here, please contact Fred Dillon (@fdillon@berkeley.edu).