

Welcome to the 2026 AIDPH Federal Service Immersion Program Application Guide

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What is the AIDPH Federal Service Immersion Program?

Join us **September 13 - 17, 2026**, in Washington, DC for the AIDPH Federal Service Immersion Program! The AIDPH Federal Service Immersion (FSI) is a week-long, immersive learning experience exploring the intersection of public health infrastructure, federal funding, policy, programming, and advocacy. FSI hosts in-person site visits to federal health organizations where participants can engage with leaders to learn about the role and operations of each entity. As with previous years, AIDPH will host an advocacy day where participants will visit legislative offices to educate decision-makers about the importance of equitable access to dental care. This day provides the opportunity to directly participate in the policy process as participants raise their collective voice to advance access to health care. FSI brings participants together with federal liaisons to tour federal buildings and learn about the federal policy process. The program schedule is rigorous and fast-paced, with visits to multiple agencies each day. AIDPH wants participants to feel connected to each other as fellows of this program and to carry both the connections and the learning gained into their long-term career goals.

This year's tentative schedule of federal and national partners includes the Indian Health Service (IHS), National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), National Library of Medicine (NLM), National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), the American Public Health Association, the American Dental Association, Families USA, CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, and more.

Elements of AIDPH's Federal Service Immersion Program



Seminars from federal and national organizations that support public healthcare delivery, research, policy, and capacity-building.



Site visits and tours of federal healthcare organizations to experience daily operations and logistics.



Advocacy training on stakeholder engagement, communication development, and policy development.



Legislative visits with decision-makers who create, influence, and implement public health policy.



Structured capacity-building to create relationships with cohort peers, leaders, and community advocates in an immersive, fast-paced setting.

How does FSI Stimulate My Personal and Professional Growth?

It is AIDPH's goal to create an experience that provides tangible benefits to both participants and their affiliated organizations. AIDPH designs educational experiences to build the capacity of professionals and students and equip them for future leadership in the broader health workforce. The network that AIDPH creates through this program and the relationships that continue after the program ends will lead to future systems change that will benefit participants, organizations, and the health and well-being of vulnerable populations. More specifically, by participating in the FSI, dental public health professionals and students will:



- Cultivate an understanding of federal agency roles and operations
- Develop knowledge of federal career pathways
- Become an FSI fellow and AIDPH Academy graduate, providing ample networking opportunities designed to support ongoing professional connections.
- Gain opportunities to network and connect with national leaders in dental public health



FSI is a fellowship program offered through the [AIDPH Academy](#), a hub of educational programming serving as a dynamic platform for public health professionals seeking to enhance their knowledge and leadership skills in oral health. The Academy offers a spectrum of educational experiences ranging from webinars and workshops to comprehensive certificate programs and fellowships. FSI is developed and

implemented using AIDPH's Empowering Transformation for Community Health (ETCH) Framework, a guide for how AIDPH strategically develops and implements our education and leadership programming. Our ETCH Framework incorporates adult learning principles that enhance personal and professional development while complementing traditional academic pursuits

After graduating from the FSI program, attendees will be considered Fellows of the AIDPH Academy and receive ongoing exclusive professional development opportunities from AIDPH.

2026 FSI Advocacy Training

As part of AIDPH's ongoing commitment to building the capacity of the oral health and public health workforce, an advocacy day is included. AIDPH will take participants to meetings with legislative offices in Washington, DC to educate policymakers on issues related to public health priorities. We prepare for these meetings in advance of the FSI program and again throughout the program, using what we learn from federal and national partners to sharpen our conversations with decision-makers.



AIDPH is a 501c3 nonprofit. Advocacy activities are not designed to facilitate lobbying. This experience provides an educational opportunity for participants to share their perspectives on the oral healthcare needs of communities they serve.

Our advocacy training occurs virtually before the FSI program in DC and throughout the in-person event. Through these trainings, participants learn how to:

- Understand the public health policy infrastructure at state and federal levels, and how appropriations and legislation influence the policy process.
- Crafting an advocacy strategy that connects decision-makers with your daily work and health issue areas.
- Strategies and scripts for meeting with legislative offices, making your advocacy ask, and taking information back to use in your daily work.
- Learn about meeting etiquette, communication strategies, and navigating legislative meetings at The Capitol.
- Recieve tools and resources, like email templates and feedback forms, to stay connected with your state and local federal legislators to sustain long-term relationships.

2026 FSI Program Schedule

2026 AGENDA



FEDERAL SERVICE IMMERSION

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14

We'll visit the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD including a tour of the NIH clinical center, tour of National Library of Medicine, and presentations from NIDCR leadership

**NIH
NIDCR
NLM**

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15

We'll visit the HRSA campus in Rockville, MD and have seminars from leaders in the Bureau of Health Workforce with presentations from other HHS agencies throughout.

**HRSA
IHS*
VA***

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16

This day features strategies, resources, and frameworks from our national partners. Attendees learn about national funding and advocacy priorities within the public health infrastructure.

**PCORI*
ADEA*
ADA*
APHA***

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17

Attendees will meet with legislative offices for an action-packed day educating policy decision-makers on public health priorities within states and local communities.

**DAY ON
THE HILL**

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18

Close out the day learning about opportunities to carry advocacy into your daily work as you wrap up the FSI experience

**NRHA*
CAREQUEST*
FAMILIES USA***

**Organizations denoted with an asterisk are pending a confirmed date of participation, and the agenda may change slightly as a result.*

The Application and Selection Process

Use this link to complete the 2026 FSI Application: <https://wkf.ms/4dzssW6>

Interested candidates should complete the program [application](#) by **Monday, June 8 2026, at 5:00 pm PDT**. AIDPH staff and program faculty will assess each application to ensure that applicants are positioned well to participate and are likely to benefit from doing so. In reviewing each application, AIDPH will consider:

- A demonstrated commitment to public health and increasing access to healthcare through community advocacy
- A demonstrated interest in a career working in public health, a federal agency, or a similar field
- The overall thoughtfulness and thoroughness of answers to the application questions
- Commitment to the program format and expectations

Application guidance issued	April 2026
Applications due to AIDPH via this Form	June 8, 2026
Notifications of acceptance decisions	Week of June 15
Hotel and other travel details announced	July 2026
Full tuition payment & Program Agreements Due	July 6, 2026
Cohort Meet-up and Orientation (virtual)	August 2025 (exact date TBD)
Advocacy Orientation Session	August 2025 (exact date TBD)
FSI Program	September 13-17, 2026

Program FAQs

- **How should I coordinate travel for FSI?**

You should travel to DC on Sunday, September 13, 2026. You will check into the hotel, and we will have a brief Meet and Greet that evening to pick up materials. FSI begins early Monday morning (September 14th). Programming will conclude at noon on Friday, September 17, 2026. **Please arrange to fly out no earlier than 2pm on Friday September 18th** so as not to miss any site visit information. Reagan National Airport (DCA) is the closest airport to the FSI site visit experiences; however, feel free to compare prices and flight times with Dulles Airport.

- **Who is a good fit for this program?**

This experience is best for public health professionals who want to learn more about the federal policy process, people who want hands-on experience in advocacy, or students interested in dental public health and public health careers. AIDPH encourages applicants from traditionally underrepresented and historically excluded communities. Please reach out to programs@AIDPH.org with any questions about eligibility.

- **How much does the program cost?**

Program tuition is **\$1800 dollars**, which includes registration, some meals, some transportation costs, and program materials. Participants will pay for some meals, lodgings, and some transportation costs.

- **Where is the event hotel?**

AIDPH will contract with a centrally located hotel close to public transit that costs about \$200-\$300 per night on average. **Participants are expected to stay at the event hotel to ensure effective coordination of group activities.** We will provide a link to book directly through the hotel room block.

- **How will we get around?**

AIDPH uses public transit via the DC Metro system because it is the most cost-effective and fastest way to reach site visits. On average, it should cost about \$35 per participant to travel to site visits for the week. We'll provide each participant with a metro card.

- **I've never participated in an advocacy day before - what should I expect?**

Don't worry! AIDPH will prepare all FSI attendees for our education day — and pair groups of attendees with at least one highly experienced team member who can help guide the conversations. For FSI, we host "know before you go" sessions where attendees will be prepped for this event and all of the associated experiences for the week. We welcome all levels of experience in FSI and within our education/advocacy day.

Participant Expectations

To ensure the value of this program to the full cohort of participants, each individual taking part in the FSI will commit to the following program policies:

- 1) I confirm that I am available to participate in all meetings and other components of the FSI program on the scheduled dates of September 13-17, 2026.
- 2) I acknowledge that there is a tuition requirement of \$1,800.00, and if I am accepted and participate in the FSI program, I will pay the tuition in full by August 5, 2025.
- 3) I acknowledge that transportation to Washington, D.C., is not included in the FSI tuition and that I will be responsible for scheduling and paying for my transportation to and from Washington, D.C., for the program.
- 4) I acknowledge that lodging for the duration of the FSI program in Washington, D.C., is not included in the FSI tuition and that I will be responsible for scheduling and paying for my lodging at the designated program hotel in Washington, D.C.
- 5) I acknowledge that I will adhere to [AIDPH's COVID-19 protocol](#) and that this protocol is subject to change at any time given the changing nature of public health best practices during the pandemic.
- 6) I understand that the FSI will take place in a professional setting and agree to adhere to a business dress code for the entirety of the program.
- 7) I agree to treat FSI participants, AIDPH faculty, federal employees, and any other individuals involved in the programming with respect and dignity and to participate in the program in a professional manner.
- 8) I acknowledge that FSI participants will be entering several different federal buildings and agree to adhere to all federal protocols required in each building.
- 9) I understand that I will have to provide personal information, including, but not limited to, government-issued photo ID(s) and/or Visas (for non-U.S. Citizens) to gain access to the federal buildings involved in FSI and acknowledge my documentation will be **current by July 1, 2026 and through October 31, 2026.**

Statement of Accessibility

AIDPH is committed to ensuring accessibility and inclusion in our programming. As such, we will work with each participant to determine what, if any, accessibility accommodations are needed to fully participate in the program and coordinate those needs as possible during the program. Please reach out to programs@AIDPH.org with any questions about the application, selection process, or program.