

Explore Public Health

www.ExplorePublicHealth.com • ExplorePublicHealth@gmail.com

*Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health
is the most shocking and the most inhumane.*
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Background

Public health is an exciting and growing field but we are experiencing a shortage of public health workers. Between 1980 and 2000, the workforce diminished by 50,000 professionals and this trend is expected to continue as many of the current public health workers become eligible for retirement (ASPH, 2010). In order to ensure that the public health workforce can adequately meet the needs of the US and global population, it is crucial to increase the number of students pursuing a public health degree.

Although we must focus on increasing the overall public health workforce, this effort also serves as a great opportunity to improve the diversity of public health professionals. As with many other states, the racial and ethnic composition of Colorado's residents is growing. People of color make up 30% of our population but less than 15% of health professionals are people of color (Krause, M., 2004). Diversifying the public health workforce will be an important step towards providing more culturally and linguistically appropriate services, which will aid in the efforts towards eliminating racial/ethnic health disparities.

Explore Public Health is a program of the Colorado Public Health Association designed for people of color ages 18-25 who are interested in learning more about the field of public health. With the aim of increasing the diversity of public health professionals, Explore Public Health will provide participants the opportunity to learn about a variety of public health topics and network with a diverse group of public health professionals.

Program Dates

Accepted participants are required to attend all four sessions of the Explore Public Health program. These sessions will take place from 9 am to 4 pm on the second Saturday of each month: **February 11, March 10, April 14, and May 12.**

Objectives

To increase the racial/ethnic diversity in the field of public health, the Explore Public Health program is designed to:

- Increase participants' understanding of potential degree programs and careers in public health
- Raise awareness around racial/ethnic health disparities
- Provide participants with an opportunity to interact with and establish networks with various public health professionals
- Develop participants' leadership and critical thinking skills

Program Description

Participants of the Explore Public Health program will meet once a month between February and May to learn about topics including, but not limited to, the following:

- History of Public Health
- Health Disparities and Social Determinants of Health
- Cultural Competency
- Leadership and Communication
- Systems Thinking
- Evaluating Public Health Programs
- Career Opportunities Available in Public Health
- Public Health Degree Programs, Scholarships, and Loan Repayment Resources

Participants will also be paired with a mentor and have the opportunity to shadow a public health professional during the course of the program.

Important Dates

- **Application Due Date:** All application materials must be received by **Friday, January 20th**. Applications may be submitted electronically to ExplorePublicHealth@gmail.com or mailed to:

The Partnership for Families & Children
Attn: Suzy Shimasaki
450 Lincoln St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80203
- **Notification of Acceptance:** All applicants will be notified about their acceptance status by **Friday, January 27th**. Notifications will be sent to the email address provided on the application.
- **Tuition Payment:** If accepted, in order to confirm your seat in the Explore Public Health program, participants must submit a \$20 tuition fee no later than **Saturday, February 11th**.
- **Presentations and Trainings:** Accepted participants are required to attend all four sessions of the Explore Public Health program. These sessions will take place between February and May on the second Saturday of each month. The sessions will run from 9 am to 4 pm and will be held at The Partnership for Families & Children located at 450 Lincoln St, Suite 100, Denver, CO 80203. Lunch will be provided.
- **Mentoring Sessions:** Participants are required to meet with their mentors at least once a month between February and May. Participants will have the opportunity to schedule these sessions individually with their mentors.

Explore Public Health Application

Applications must be received by Friday, January 20th. Please answer all questions completely. Your application must be legible (computer-generated applications are strongly preferred). **If you are accepted to the Explore Public Health program, this application will be sent to your mentor and serve as an introduction to familiarize him/her with your background and interests.**

Personal Information

Full Legal Name		Preferred Name	Gender
			<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
Home Address			
City	State	Postal Code	Cell Phone
Email		Date of Birth	
Race/Ethnicity (Please check all that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			

Academic Information

Type of School	Name of School	Years of Attendance	Major or Degree
High School			
College			
Professional			

Employment Information

Employer	Position	Employment Dates

Community and Volunteer Services

Organization	Position	Participation Dates

Essay Questions

Please respond to the following essay questions using approximately 250 to 400 words for *each* response.

- 1) Why are you interested in the Explore Public Health program? What do you expect to gain from it?
- 2) How has your background, including personal, professional, service, and academic experiences, prepared you to work effectively and empathetically with diverse communities?
- 3) Describe an experience you recently had that demonstrates your capacity as a leader. If you do not feel that you have ever had the opportunity to serve as a leader, describe the type of leader you would like to become.

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Denver, CO 80203

If you have any questions, please contact Suzy Shimasaki at 303.837.8466 ext. 129 or ExplorePublicHealth@gmail.com.