

## **Equity Internship Program Health & Medicine Policy Research Group**

**Internship period:** Approximately 12 weeks, beginning late September 2022

**Deadline for applications:** September 1, 2022

**Time commitment:** 15 - 20 hours per week **Pay:** \$15/hour

**Location:** Chicago, Illinois (Internship will be conducted remotely)

### **About Health & Medicine Policy Research Group**

Health & Medicine Policy Research Group (Health & Medicine) was founded in 1981 as an independent non-profit health policy and advocacy center in Chicago working to improve the health of all people in Illinois by promoting health equity.

### **About Health & Medicine's Internship Program**

Health & Medicine's internship program provides an excellent opportunity for people wishing to begin a career in health policy with a focus on advancing health equity and eliminating and redressing structural inequities. This internship program is dedicated to supporting learning, network growth, and successful career launch. Interns will be able to gain exposure to multiple health-related policy and practice projects and to focus on one of the main project areas at Health & Medicine.

### **Qualifications**

Health & Medicine is especially interested in applicants who are pursuing a career focused on health policy, public health, social work, and advancing health equity.

- Priority will be given to graduate students who are currently enrolled in or recently graduated from a graduate degree program in the greater Chicagoland area. Students residing in the Chicagoland area who are enrolled in an online graduate program out of state will also be eligible for the internship program.
- Intern will be responsible for providing their own computer, internet, and any other technological equipment necessary for performing their duties remotely.

### **How we understand health equity:**

Health equity can be understood as both a process and an outcome. As a process, according to Dr. Camara Phyllis Jones, health equity is a process of assurance of the conditions of optimal health for all people which requires at least three things: 1) valuing all individuals and populations equally; 2) recognizing and rectifying historical injustices and 3) providing resources according to need. Health inequities will be eliminated when health equity is achieved. As an outcome, health equity is achieved when every person can attain their full health potential without disadvantage because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.

### **Health & Medicine's Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

We encourage anyone interested in a health-related career to apply for an internship at Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. Our organization has long advocated for and worked to advance a diverse health workforce that is rooted in justice, inclusion, and equity in terms of who is at tables related to public health, healthcare, and health policy. We actively seek to promote career growth among those who have been traditionally excluded and underrepresented in health policy and other health-related careers.

We recognize internships as valuable opportunities for learning, connecting with other professionals, and launching careers.

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### **What kind of work do interns do?**

While projects vary, interns may be involved with the following types of work:

- Researching and analyzing policy and writing reports, briefs, or fact sheets relevant to public health, healthcare, health workforce, and topics relevant to Health & Medicine projects (listed below)
- Writing reports, briefs, or fact sheets relevant to public health, healthcare, health workforce, and topics relevant to Health & Medicine projects
- Helping track bills and ordinances progress at the state, county, and city level and Health & Medicine's advocacy for each of these.
- Health policy forum and roundtable event planning, resource sharing, and follow-up
- Organizing information and coordinating projects related to health policy and public health capacity building
- Joining and supporting staff at various collaborations and coalitions

**Please note that while we will do our best to match interns to their areas of interest, we will assign interns to projects based on our current organizational needs. Interns may work within the following Health & Medicine program areas:**

**ACEs:** Health & Medicine is the lead convener of the Illinois Adverse Childhood Experiences Response Collaborative, a group of multi-sectoral stakeholders committed to expanding the understanding of trauma and its impact on people's lives. Through advocacy and mobilization efforts, we work to put the issues of ACEs and resilience on the forefront of the equity agenda in Illinois.

**AHEC:** Chicago AHEC, the Area Health Education Center, works at the policy and practice level to recruit, train, and retain a diverse health workforce committed to underserved populations.

**Center for Public Health Equity:** Advancing social justice and health equity is at the heart of Health & Medicine's work. Our Center for Public Health Equity helps us find new opportunities to live our values. Externally, the Center works to make health equity a shared value, combat structural inequities, and advocate for progressive public health policy reform. Through collaboration and narrative change, we build power for health equity.

**CHWs:** Community health workers are frontline public health workers who are trusted community members with a close understanding of the community served. Health & Medicine has a long-standing commitment to the CHW model, and we advocate at the state level and within health systems to strengthen the role and recognition of CHWs as integral members of the healthcare team.

**Development & Communications:** Health & Medicine's Development & Communications department is responsible for acquiring funding for the organization through a variety of sources, including grants, individual fundraising campaigns, and events. The department is also responsible for managing communications for all program areas through a variety of platforms, including Health & Medicine's website, email list, and social media channels.

**Health Reform and Safety Net Transformation:** Health & Medicine's Health Reform and Safety Net Transformation staff work to advance equitable healthcare as a human right for all people through policy research and development, advocacy, and narrative change.

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**Aging and Health:** The Center for Long-term Care Reform promotes a just system of long-term services and supports that enables people to live according to their own goals and values. Currently, the center is focused on campaigning for a strategic action plan on aging for Illinois.

**Schweitzer Fellowship:** The Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows Program fosters the leadership abilities of aspiring health professionals, who design and implement service projects that promote health equity.

**Workforce Development:** Having a diverse, highly trained health care workforce is central to health equity. Health & Medicine has decades of leadership promoting the development of workforce policies and strengthening the health careers pipeline.

### **Application Schedule and Process:**

Typically, the length of one of our internships is 10-12 weeks, depending upon the intern's needs. We host three main internship cohorts per calendar year:

Winter/Spring (January - April) Summer (June - August)  
Fall/Winter (September - December)

Note: An internship could start or end a little later or earlier than these month ranges, and we'll work with selected interns on coordinating schedules.

**Applications for the next internship period are due Thursday, September 1, 2022.** For updates on internship application deadlines for future cohorts, check our website at [www.hmprg.org](http://www.hmprg.org).

**Process:** To apply for an internship, applicants must complete an [internship inquiry form](#) found on our website. All applications will be reviewed by the Intern Equity Committee at Health & Medicine. Finalists will be e-mailed to schedule a virtual interview with members of the Committee. Internships will be awarded by mid-September, with an internship orientation to occur during the week of September 20.