



**Internship Opportunity: April - September 2021**  
***Mental Health First Aid Tracking and Evaluation Project***  
**Alliance for Health Equity and Illinois Public Health Institute**

Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI) is seeking an energetic and well-organized intern to assist with the implementation of a *Mental Health First Aid Tracking and Evaluation Project* within the Alliance for Health Equity. The intern will assist with quantitative and qualitative data collection from Mental Health Training Providers who participate in the Alliance for Health Equity, organize and input data into a shared database, and provide feedback and input into the development of an online web mapping application under the guidance of the lead program manager and a GIS contractor. This is a paid internship that runs from April-September 2021.

**About IPHI**

The Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI) mobilizes stakeholders, catalyzes partnerships, and leads action to improve public health systems to maximize health, health equity, and quality of life for people and communities. IPHI works through three program centers: the Center for Community Capacity Development (CCCD), the Center for Health Information Technology (CHIT), and the Center for Policy and Partnership Initiatives (CPPI).

**Alliance for Health Equity**

The Alliance for Health Equity is one the largest hospital-community partnerships in the country and includes over 30 hospitals, the Chicago Department of Public Health, the Cook County Department of Public Health, and nearly 100 community-based organizations working together to improve health equity in Chicago and Suburban Cook County. IPHI serves as the facilitating backbone organization. The Alliance for Health Equity's work is centered around several focus areas including behavioral health, housing, food security and food access, trauma-informed hospitals, and the structural and social determinants of health.

**Project Description**

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a skills-based training course that teaches participants about mental health and substance use disorders and how to take appropriate action when someone is experiencing a mental health crisis. The Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders committee of the Alliance for Health Equity has identified the coordination and evaluation of countywide Mental Health First Aid trainings as a priority.

Several Alliance for Health Equity partners provide Mental Health First Aid trainings to community residents across Chicago and Cook County. Currently, there is no large-scale coordination of trainings efforts between providers. The goals of the *Mental Health First Aid Tracking and Evaluation Project* include:

*Completing a Shared Evaluation*

- To better gain a greater understanding of the short and long-term impacts of MHFA trainings occurring across Cook County
- To understand gaps in behavioral health services within communities

*Developing a web application*

- To support a responsive, equity-focused network of MHFA and mental health awareness training providers
- To increase coordination across multiple providers of MHFA to ensure the training is deployed where it is needed most
- To improve community members' ability to access information about MHFA and other mental health awareness trainings

### *Increasing equity, sustainability, and reach*

- To take a community-driven approach to improving access to MHFA and mental health awareness trainings in low-income communities of color and communities most impacted by health inequities.
- To increase resources, funding, and capacity across the network to provide MHFA and mental health awareness training

### **Qualifications**

- Graduate student in public health, healthcare administration, social work, or related field. Undergraduate students with demonstrated experience will also be considered.
- Strong data collection and analysis skills – experience can be related to course completion and/or job-related.
- Demonstrated interest and experience related to health equity.
- Strong communication and writing skills, particularly focused on summary reports such as briefs, white papers, and/or blog posts.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office including Microsoft Excel required.
- Experience using qualitative data analysis software such as DeDoose or NVIVO preferred.
- Familiarity with web applications and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) preferred but not required.
- Candidates that live in the Chicagoland area and have knowledge of communities and organizations in Cook County are highly desirable.

### **Additional Skills/Requirements**

- Because this position will be remote, we are seeking an intern that is able to proactively manage projects to meet deadlines under the guidance of the lead program manager. Strong communication skills will be necessary.
- Access to a reliable internet connection will be needed to complete online components of work and attend virtual meetings.
- Experience using online engagement platforms including Microsoft Teams and Zoom a plus.

**Location:** The work will be completed remotely, with participation in virtual meetings. If the IPHI offices open later in 2021, there may be opportunities for in-person meetings. Although work will be completed remotely, we are looking for an intern with knowledge of communities and organizations in Cook County.

**Hours and Compensation:** This is a paid internship position, with compensation at \$15 an hour. Weekly hours may vary over the course of the internship but are expected to range from 10-15 hours per week. IPHI is willing to work with students and universities to provide course credits or practicum hours.

**Starting Date:** April 2021.

**To apply:** Please submit a resume and cover letter to [jobsearch@iphionline.org](mailto:jobsearch@iphionline.org) with “Internship – Mental Health First Aid” in the subject line. The cover letter should compare your qualifications and experiences to the requirements in this position description.

*The Illinois Public Health Institute is dedicated to the principles of equal opportunity. All qualified applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or any other personal characteristic not relevant to the posted position. IPHI is committed to diversity and strongly encourages women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, LGBTQ individuals, and veterans to apply.*

Visit [www.iphionline.org](http://www.iphionline.org) for more information about IPHI.

Visit [www.allhealthequity.org](http://www.allhealthequity.org) for more information about the Alliance for Health Equity.