



PHAP

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

The mission of the Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) is to train and provide experiential learning to early career professionals who contribute to the public health workforce. Managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support, PHAP enables entry-level public health professionals to gain hands-on, real-life experience in the day-to-day operations of public health programs. After completing the two-year, CDC-funded PHAP training program, associates are qualified to apply for public health positions at CDC and other health organizations.

PHAP is geared toward recent baccalaureate and master's level graduates who are interested in a career in public health.

Learning through Hands-on Experience in the Field

Associates have the opportunity to work alongside professionals across a variety of public health settings. As CDC assignees to host agencies (state, tribal, local, and territorial public health agencies; community-based organizations; public health institutes and associations; academic institutions; and CDC quarantine stations) in the field, associates hold positions similar to those of their agency coworkers. They also help to extend the reach of programmatic work in the field, making them a valuable resource to their host site agencies.

"My two years in PHAP represented a unique time in my life where I had the opportunity and support to try a lot of public health activities and shape my future goals." Former associate, PHAP Class of 2012

Program Areas at Host Agencies

Each appointment consists of a two-year assignment in a program area selected by the host agency, including—

- Chronic disease
- Environmental health
- Global migration and quarantine
- Immunization
- Injury and violence prevention
- Maternal and child health
- Public health preparedness
- STD, TB, and/or HIV, and other communicable diseases





Program Curriculum

PHAP's comprehensive curriculum focuses on developing associates' proficiencies in key public health areas via formal instruction, mentoring, and on-the-job training. Associates also are able to participate in skill-building activities through seminars, web-based training, and conferences. Some examples of a typical associate's on-the-job training—

- Contributing to community program planning and implementation
- Participating in outbreak response activities
- Developing surveillance reports for use by the agency or community
- Collecting water samples and insect specimens for environmental testing

"We love this program! We benefit from the associates' energy and expertise in public health, and in return, provide great opportunities for them to do meaningful work." Host site supervisor, PHAP Class of 2012



PHAP Strengthens the Public Health Workforce and Benefits Host Sites

PHAP was founded in 2007 to renew CDC's frontline public health focus and to meet the need for an ongoing source of field-tested, experienced, and dedicated public health professionals. In 2010, PHAP expanded from a pilot program to a nationwide public health training program—hiring 65 associates in 2010, and 145 associates in 2014—to further extend the reach of the program and CDC's prevention activities. To date, PHAP has placed 545 public health associates in health departments across 43 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

While PHAP offers tremendous benefits to the associates through training and support, the host site also receives numerous benefits, including—

- Capacity-building and human resources to fill gaps in agencies affected by budget cuts and staffing shortages
- A unique partnership with CDC to develop the nation's next generation of public health professionals
- Direct access to CDC resources and subject matter expertise

For more information about becoming a PHAP associate or hosting an associate at your site, contact us at phap@cdc.gov or 404.498.0030.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Public Health Associate Program (PHAP)
4770 Buford Hwy, NE, Mailstop: E-85, Atlanta, GA 30341
PHAP@cdc.gov | www.cdc.gov/PHAP