

Kentucky Department for Public Health Student Internship Catalog Summer 2026

Internship Dates between June 1 – August 28, 2026

Application Closes on March 30, 2026



Office of the Commissioner

Grant Ready: Creating Tools to Support Public Health Funding

- 🏆 **Branch:** Office/Division Level
- 🏆 **Open to:** Bachelor's
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** Julie McAllister, MHA, Staff Advisor, Federal Grants Application Specialist
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Microsoft 365 (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel, TEAMS) and Canva familiarity is preferred
- 🏆 **Setting:** Remote
- 🏆 **Workstation Location:** NA
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** 10
- 🏆 **Project Description:** The Grant Ready Project is a Quality Improvement (QI) initiative within KDPH focused on making the grants process easier for staff to understand and navigate. The main goals of the project are improving the clarity and organization of the grants intranet page, reducing confusion about where to start in the grants process, centralizing trainings, templates and guidance to increase staff confidence and grant readiness and supporting efficiency across divisions.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** Grant Application/Grant Writing Toolkit.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Quality Improvement summary.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Updated "Grants Process" intranet page content.
- 🏆 [To apply for the Grant Ready Project, use this application link](#)

Rural Health Transformation

- 🏆 **Branch:** Office/Division Level
- 🏆 **Open to:** Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** Ashley Gibson, MA, Workforce Planning Lead, Rural Health Transformation
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Microsoft 365 (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel, TEAMS), community-based experience, strong oral and written communication skills, database familiarity and analytic skills.
- 🏆 **Setting:** Hybrid
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** 15
- 🏆 **Project Description:** The A3 Leadership Team is seeking one intern to support the Rural Health Transformation Program at the Kentucky Department for Public Health. This role offers a valuable opportunity to gain hands-on public health experience across multiple focus areas, including chronic conditions, maternal health, behavioral health, oral health and emergency medical services. The selected intern will be supervised by the Workforce Planning Lead and will also receive cross-training to assist initiative leads across the program. In this capacity, the intern will contribute to advancing project objectives and achieving key results across the Rural Health Transformation program.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** Collaborate with initiative leads to conduct county-level health analysis of resources, providers and community partners in support of RHTP initiatives.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Assist in the compilation and analysis of Objectives and Key Results (OKR) data to support the development of annual reports and performance summaries.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Design and execute user test cases for consumer-facing technologies to enhance healthcare access, improve health literacy and promote patient empowerment and engagement. Provide technical assistance and identify key consumer and patient-level considerations to inform optimization and adoption.
- 🏆 [To apply for the Rural Health Transformation Project, use this application link](#)

Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning

Advancing the Actionability of Wastewater Surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza

- 🏆 **Branch:** Division Office/Other
- 🏆 **Open to:** Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** Daniel B. Cooper, MPH, Epidemiologist
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Experience with study design, epidemiologic literature review and writing methods and results sections in a report, R programming, familiarity with GitHub/Git for version control, proficiency in descriptive statistics, data validation, cleaning, aggregation and merging, ability to translate complex technical data into actionable guidance for professional audiences.
- 🏆 **Setting:** Virtual, Hybrid
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** 19
- 🏆 **Project Description:** This internship focuses on the practical application of wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) within a state public health framework. The intern will assess data quality & conduct exploratory data analyses using wastewater respiratory virus data, clinical case data and/or vaccination rate data. With assistance, the intern will conduct correlation analysis with the goal to increase interpretability and actionability of wastewater virus data. Finally, the intern will report findings in a written report with tables and figures as needed. The intern will be encouraged to use R and Quarto for analyses and reporting.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** Perform data validation and exploratory data analysis (descriptive, univariate statistics) for wastewater virus data, confirmed clinical case data and/or regional vaccine coverage data for SARS-Cov-2 and Influenza.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Perform correlation analysis and linear regression modelling to determine relationship between wastewater data and other data.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Write a report displaying statistical findings using tables and figures, interpreting results and suggesting next steps.
- 🏆 [To apply for the Wastewater Surveillance Project, use this application link](#)

Disaster Planning and Data Quality Review

- 🏆 **Branch:** Division Office/Other
- 🏆 **Open to:** Bachelor's
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** John Prather, MBA, Syndromic Surveillance Coordinator/Courtney Walker, PhD, Epidemiologist Technical Advisor
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Experience with study design, epidemiologic literature review, writing methods and results sections in a report, healthcare diagnosis and evaluation, R programming, Microsoft 365 (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel, TEAMS), data analysis, data validation, and the ability to translate complex technical data into actionable guidance for professional audiences.
- 🏆 **Setting:** Hybrid
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** 10-15
- 🏆 **Project Description:** This internship focuses on syndromic surveillance data quality and its practical application. The intern will assess data quality and assist in developing R reports to support surveillance activities. Additionally, the intern will contribute to evaluating and strengthening disaster surveillance tracking and protocols, with an emphasis on consistency, efficiency and sustainability.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** Develop and standardize data quality reports for emergency department (ED), inpatient and non-hospital data sources to ensure accurate, reliable data for surveillance activities.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Utilize improved data quality assessments to analyze potential disaster scenarios and develop queries that enhance and expand the disaster surveillance query board.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Create and document standard operating procedures (SOPs) for developing disaster surveillance queries and analyzing associated data to ensure consistency, reproducibility and long-term sustainability.
- 🏆 [To apply for the Disaster Planning Project, use this application link](#)

Genomic Epidemiology Resource Development

- 🛡️ **Branch:** Infectious Disease Branch
- 🛡️ **Open to:** Master's, Doctoral
- 🛡️ **Supervisor:** Vanessa Chavez, MPH, Genomic Epidemiologist
- 🛡️ **Desired Skills:** Microsoft 365 (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel, TEAMS, data aggregation, literature review/research, oral and written communication skills, biostatistics, programming (R, Python) and REDCap.
- 🛡️ **Setting:** Hybrid
- 🛡️ **Number of Hours per Week:** Up to 20
- 🛡️ **Project Description:** The intern will work under the supervision of the Genomic Epidemiologist within the Reportable Disease Section to develop genomic resources and training materials. The intern will work collaboratively, apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 1:** Literature review of genomic distance thresholds for various pathogens and create documentation
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 2:** Create educational resources and training tools/materials
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 3:** Create programmatic process maps and workflow diagrams
- 🛡️ [To apply for the Genomic Epidemiology Project, use this application link](#)

Kentucky Public Health Interview Team (PHIT)

- 🏆 **Branch:** Infectious Disease Branch
- 🏆 **Open to:** Bachelor's, Master's
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** Morgan Smith, MPH, CPH, Epidemiologist III
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Microsoft 365 (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel) REDCap and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), interview/communication skills, data entry/management skills, analytic skills, time management, ability to work independently and detail-oriented.
- 🏆 **Setting:** Virtual, Hybrid
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** 10
- 🏆 **Project Description:** The Reportable Disease Section is seeking 1-2 interns to work with the KY Public Health Interview Team (PHIT) at the Kentucky Department for Public Health in the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning. This is an excellent opportunity to gain applied epidemiology experience. Interns will be cross-trained to conduct case-patient interviews for enteric conditions and vector-borne conditions. Additional job roles will include performing data collection and data entry. Interns may also assist with outbreak investigations.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** Conduct case-patient interviews for enteric conditions and/or vector-borne conditions.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Collect disease exposure data and enter data into the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) and REDCap projects.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Assist with descriptive data analysis projects for enteric disease and/or vector-borne disease data.
- 🏆 [To apply for the Kentucky Public Health Interview Team Project, use this application link](#)

Local Health Department Clinical Services Resource Mapping and Analysis of Clinician's Webinar data

- 🏆 **Branch:** Infectious Disease Branch
- 🏆 **Open to:** Master's, Doctoral
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** Meagan Hurst, MPH, Principal Investigator/Program Manager
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Microsoft 365 Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Teams), database familiarity (REDCap), analytic skills (descriptive statistics), ability to use or learn Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Tableau, ability to work independently.
- 🏆 **Setting:** Virtual, Hybrid
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** 20
- 🏆 **Project Description:** This project would help to analyze existing survey data from two different databases and create summary reports and tools for data utilization. The two areas of interest examine the intersection of public health and clinical service in Kentucky.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** Use REDCap survey information and follow up calls to develop a detailed table of clinical capabilities and hours available at local health department offices across the state.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Create an interactive map of office locations and availability information.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Examine collected data regarding participation in the Clinician Webinar series. Create a descriptive report of the data.
- 🏆 [To apply for the Local Health Department Clinical Services Project, use this application link](#)

Strengthening Public Health Practice: Community Epidemiology & Workforce Development

- 🏆 **Branch:** Division Office/Other
- 🏆 **Open to:** Master's
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** Courtney Walker, PhD, Epidemiologist Technical Advisor
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Foundational understanding of core epidemiologic principles; interest in emerging fields like genomic surveillance and wastewater-based epidemiology. Strong verbal and written communication skills, with the ability to lead meetings and present technical information to a professional audience in an engaging way. Proficiency in standard office productivity tools (Microsoft Teams/PowerPoint). Experience with Canva is a plus. Ability to manage multiple timelines, coordinate between different program teams and organize logistics for educational events.
- 🏆 **Setting:** Hybrid
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** 15
- 🏆 **Project Description:** This internship supports the Kentucky Epidemiologists Practicing in Community (KY EPIC) initiative in its mission to bridge the gap between academic epidemiology and applied public health practice. The intern will collaborate with program staff within the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning (DEHP) to design and implement "Lunch and Learn" educational sessions focused on high-priority areas such as genomic, syndromic, vital statistics and wastewater-based epidemiology. Through stakeholder engagement and curriculum development, the intern will help standardize knowledge across the division while strengthening the technical and communication skills of Kentucky's epidemiologic workforce. The intern will be responsible for helping create session materials and conducting a basic evaluation of participant learning.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** Partnership Engagement & Needs Assessment: Coordinate meetings with 1-2 DEHP program leads (Genomic, Syndromic, Vital Statistics, and/or Wastewater) to identify key educational gaps, specific program updates and technical skills that should be highlighted in the "Lunch and Learn" series.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Curriculum & Content Development: Help develop educational materials for 1-2 sessions, including slide decks and/or technical one-pagers as needed that translate complex program data into actionable insights for staff.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Evaluation Tool: Develop a streamlined feedback mechanism (e.g., a simple pre/post-session survey) to assess the increase in educational awareness and identify areas for future KY EPIC workshops.
- 🏆 [To apply for the Strengthening Public Health Practice Project, use this application link](#)

Division of Laboratory Services

Introduction to Microbiological Assays at DLS

- 🏆 **Branch:** Microbiology Branch
- 🏆 **Open to:** Bachelor's
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** Sarah Preston, M.S., CPH, Public Health Laboratory Scientist Manager
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Microsoft 365 Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Teams), background in microbiology, biology, chemistry, or public health.
- 🏆 **Setting:** In-Person
- 🏆 **Workstation Location:** 100 Sower Blvd, Ste 204, Frankfort, KY 40601
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** up to 20
- 🏆 **Project Description:** This internship will provide a full, hands-on testing role in the Microbiology Branch. The Sections: Virology, Bacteriology and Sequencing within the Division of Laboratory Services (DLS); perform various testing methods to detect and identify bacterial and viral pathogens, including enzyme immunoassays (EIA), polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and whole genome sequencing. This position will learn to perform testing for infections, in which state-of-the-art technology is used to detect illness to ensure treatment is completed as quickly as possible, thereby eliminating or reducing the devastating effects, which could include permanent physical/mental disability or death. The candidate will learn how to perform both routine serological methods, as well as high complexity testing, including both automated and manual molecular PCR testing. Microbiology testing at DLS is mandated by multiple statutes, which require our ability to test and investigate infections, including, but not limited to, hepatitis, HIV, syphilis, influenza, COVID, Tuberculosis, STIs, foodborne organisms and many more. Testing and analysis support the Kentucky Department for Public Health's (KDPH) mission to improve the health and safety of Kentuckians. Candidates will be exposed to the stringent laboratory accreditation requirements of both the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA).
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** Receiving, assessing quality and accessioning various types of specimens for microbiological analysis.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Preparing specimens and instrumentation for testing, running quality control and calibrations, performing routine daily, weekly and monthly maintenance. Troubleshooting and requesting service.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Perform multiple types of testing for viral and bacterial detection and identification.
- 🏆 [To apply for the Microbiological Assays Project, use this application link](#)

Division of Public Health Protection and Safety

Access and Functional Needs Planning and Support

- 🏆 **Branch:** Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch
- 🏆 **Open to:** Bachelor's, Master's
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** Maria Church, ADAC, Access and Functional Needs Program Coordinator
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Microsoft 365 (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook), written & oral communication skills, community-based experience and administrative skills.
- 🏆 **Setting:** In-Person, Virtual, Hybrid
- 🏆 **Workstation Location:** KDPH Frankfort Warehouse, 130 Lane View Drive, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** 12
- 🏆 **Project Description:** Student will be placed in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch to support the Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Program. The intern will perform a wide variety of tasks to assist the AFN Program Coordinator. The student will support the planning and coordination of several events including quarterly KY AFN Committee meetings, special populations workgroup meetings and the AFN response team volunteer manual.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** Student will design and develop printed materials to promote AFN program events.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Student will communicate with local health departments on grant deliverables.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Student will review, revise and create AFN program training modules.
- 🏆 [To apply for the Access and Functional Needs Project, use this application link](#)

* The selected candidate should be able and willing to return for the Fall 2026 semester to ensure project continuity

Emergency Response Partner Engagement

- 🏆 **Branch:** Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch
- 🏆 **Open to:** Bachelor's, Master's
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** Dave Carney, Readiness & Response Supervisor
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Microsoft 365 Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams), Geographical Information Systems (GIS), social media experience and administrative skills.
- 🏆 **Setting:** In-Person, Hybrid
- 🏆 **Workstation Location:** 400 Professional Ave, Winchester KY or site TBD
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** Up to 20
- 🏆 **Project Description:** The Bluegrass Healthcare Coalition is seeking an intern to enhance partner engagement. This internship offers an excellent opportunity to gain firsthand insight into the constantly evolving field of Healthcare Emergency Management. The selected intern will provide direct support through member engagement based on conditions, partnership situations, and needs. In addition, the intern will assist in developing and enhancing engagement with health and medical partners through social media platforms.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** Help to create content on Facebook, websites and the coalition app to broaden awareness of Healthcare Emergency Management.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Provide support in setting up meeting space, communications and administration support.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Move equipment and help with exercise setup. No special knowledge is required for this type of support other than providing directed assistance as instructed.
- 🏆 [To apply for the Emergency Response Partner Engagement Project, use this application link](#)

Environmental Health Outbreak Investigations

- 🛡️ **Branch:** Division Office/Other
- 🛡️ **Open to:** Bachelor's, Master's
- 🛡️ **Supervisor:** Margaret Riggs, PhD, MPH, MS, Disease Investigation Unit Lead
- 🛡️ **Desired Skills:** Microsoft 365 Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Teams), communication; written reports, research methodology; literature review/search, epidemiology database familiarity, data cleaning, aggregation and analytic skills; descriptive statistics.
- 🛡️ **Setting:** Virtual
- 🛡️ **Number of Hours per Week:** 5 hours
- 🛡️ **Project Description:** Seeking an intern to assist the Disease Investigation Unit with complex public health investigations of diseases or conditions (foodborne, waterborne, vector-borne, zoonotic). This project will allow the intern to gain skills in data collection, data analysis, developing training materials and assisting with policy development to improve outbreak response and prevention efforts.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 1:** Student will assist with aggregation of data and documentation for exposure investigations.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 2:** Student will assist with developing policy information and informing partners of environmental risks to assist with proposing new regulations for prevention of waterborne outbreaks.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 3:** Student will participate in partner meetings and investigation discussions to assist with developing reports of the response efforts.
- 🛡️ [To apply for the Environmental Health Outbreak Project, use this application link](#)

Operational Evaluation of the KYWSS: Wastewater Sample Site Practices

- 🏆 **Branch:** Division Office/Other
- 🏆 **Open to:** Bachelor's, Master's
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** Daniel Cooper, MPH, Wastewater Epidemiologist II and Nathaniel Culberson, Resource Analyst II
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Foundational knowledge of survey design (Likert scales, open-ended prompting) and qualitative interviewing techniques; Ability to translate technical public health concepts for non-public health stakeholders (e.g., utility managers and plant operators); Proficiency in data organization; experience with project management tools like Monday.com or Canva for visual reporting is a plus; An interest in "boots-on-the-ground" public health and community-based participatory research.
- 🏆 **Setting:** Virtual
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** 15
- 🏆 **Project Description:** As the Kentucky Wastewater Surveillance System (KYWSS) matures, better understanding of wastewater treatment plants' (WWTPs) practices and operations is vital for system sustainability. This project focuses on evaluating WWTP startup expenditures, equipment maintenance, shipping process and other details. The intern will lead an assessment using a qualitative survey to quantify these operational practices, providing the data necessary to develop a "Community Site" network for on-demand activation during public health threats like emerging viruses.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** Assess characteristics of the current 22-site roster to understand the KYWSS program and context.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Construct a qualitative survey for wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) operators to understand operational needs & practices.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Pilot survey administration (with assistance) to one WWTP and report findings.
- 🏆 [To apply for the KYWSS Evaluation Project, use this application link](#)

Strengthening Workforce Development: Enhancing KDPH's Employee Learning and Development (ELD) Program

- 🛡️ **Branch:** Public Health Workforce Readiness Branch
- 🛡️ **Open to:** Bachelor's, Master's
- 🛡️ **Supervisor:** Karen Lencki, Education Program Coordinator
- 🛡️ **Desired Skills:** Canva, Microsoft 365 (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook), written & oral communication skills.
- 🛡️ **Setting:** Virtual
- 🛡️ **Number of Hours per Week:** 10
- 🛡️ **Project Description:** The intern will support the evaluation and enhancement of KDPH's Employee Learning and Development Program and Tuition Assistance Program by analyzing data, reviewing current processes and identifying opportunities for improvement. The project will include developing and updating promotional and educational awareness and participation.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 1:** The intern will review current ELD and TAP processes, materials, and participation data and identify strengths, gaps and opportunities for improvement.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 2:** The intern will develop and update promotional materials and ensure materials align with public health workforce development goals.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 3:** The intern will assist in updating the annual report for the Tuition Assistance Program.
- 🛡️ [To apply for the KDPH Employee Learning and Development Program, use this application link](#)

Affiliated Internship Opportunity

Kentucky Manufactured Food Student Internship Summer 2026

- 🏆 **Division/Branch:** Division of Public Health Protection and Safety, Food Safety Branch
- 🏆 **Open to:** Associates, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** Dain Satterwhite, REHS, Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS) Coordinator
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Microsoft 365 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, TEAMS), legislative and policy related experience, oral and written communication skills, database familiarity, data aggregation and microbiology food safety analytic skills.
- 🏆 **Setting:** Hybrid
- 🏆 **Workstation Location:** Frankfort, KY – travel to other locations for field shadowing required (reimbursed)
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** 20-37.5 per week
- 🏆 **Project Description:** Interns are treated as full team members with high expectations. They gain career-level experience in state food safety regulation, primarily assisting the Manufactured Food Program through administrative tasks, outreach, and hands-on field shadowing of inspectors at processing facilities. Interns complete online training, contribute to program support and serve as ambassadors for food safety.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** An immersive internship experience that allows the student to better understand how the state program operates, which can be accomplished in a variety of ways (e.g., a student's participation in field inspection shadowing, lab work, inclusion in meetings and training events, standard operating procedures' review/updates, etc.)
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Completion of a minimum of five (5) online general education courses offered by Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO).
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Completion of a minimum of three (3) field shadowing experiences, with at least one of these shadowing experiences to be to a manufactured food processor under the state's regulatory purview.

***To Apply:** Submit cover letter and resume to: Dain Satterwhite, MFRPS Coordinator at daind.satterwhite@ky.gov.

Thank you

Amy Winger, MS

Student Internship Program Administrator

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(270) 418-7676



Scan the QR Code to Visit the Student Internship Program Website

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/Pages/sip.aspx>