

Case Investigation / Contact Tracing Mentorship

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is there any cost for health department that participate in the mentorship program?

A: Mentorships will be available at no financial cost to participating health departments. In order to ensure the success of this mentorship program there will be a time commitment required for both the mentee and the mentee's direct supervisor. Mentees will be expected to commit to a schedule of meetings with a mentor, and supervisors will be expected to assist the mentor in determining a mentee's professional development needs. Both mentee and supervisor will participate in the program evaluation by completing surveys.

This mentorship program has been made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Cooperative Agreement OT18-1802 Cooperative Agreement Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services through National Partnerships to Improve and Protect the Nation's Health. NNPHI is working with the CDC National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) and Tuberculosis (TB) Prevention on this project.

Q: Who is eligible to apply for this mentorship program?

A: All state, local, territorial, and tribal health departments are eligible to apply to this mentorship program.

Q: Who is eligible to be a mentee?

A: Eligible mentees are Case Investigators and Contact Tracers who are employed or otherwise engaged by state, local, tribal, and territorial health departments in the response to COVID-19. Health department mentees who are nominated for this program should be inexperienced and/or newly hired as Case Investigators (CI) and Contact Tracers (CT) in the response to COVID-19.

Q: What will be the focus of the mentorships?

A: Through the mentorship program, health department mentees will gain experience and hone interviewing and case investigation skills, such as techniques for using open ended questions, gaining trust, and persuading patients and contacts to share personal information. Other capacity building assistance may be focused on general career guidance, building confidence, interpersonal relationships and other soft skills. NNPHI will be creating a mentoring curriculum and will also work with the mentee's supervisor to determine areas of professional development needed.

Q: How long with the mentorship program be?

A: It is anticipated that the mentorship program will offer weekly or bi-weekly, 60-minute, one-on-one or small group coaching sessions for approximately eight (8) weeks between March and May 2021. Depending on the needs of the mentees, this schedule may be adjusted.

Q: What is required of health departments and their mentees who participate in the mentorship program?

A: Health departments that participate in the mentorship program are expected to: 1) make a commitment to the program by ensuring that the mentees participate in the mentoring sessions, 2) provide the name and contact information for the supervisor(s) of mentee(s) who will coordinate with NNPHI on identifying mentee needs, scheduling of mentoring sessions, progress check-ins, evaluation, and problem solving, as needed, and 3) assist NNPHI in the evaluation of the project completing a post-mentoring surveys and interviews. Mentees are expected to commit and participate fully for the duration of the mentorship program.

Q: Is there a limit on how many mentees a health department may nominate?

A: Yes, in order to make this mentorship program available to as many health departments as possible, NNPHI requests that health departments nominate no more than five (5) mentees each. .

Q: What type of equipment do health department mentees need?

A: Mentees are expected to have access to a video conferencing platform such as Zoom, internet access for completing surveys, and email.

Q: Who are the mentors?

A: This mentorship program will connect experienced current and former Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) employed as by the CDC as well as DIS who are employed at state health departments in COVID-19, STD, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and tuberculosis prevention programs to serve as mentors.

Q: Are we able to select who our mentor will be?

A: The mentor-mentee relationship is an important part of the success of the mentorship program. NNPHI will work with the health departments selected for the program to match mentors and mentees taking into consideration the needs of the jurisdiction.

Q: How do we apply?

Applications will be accepted through _____, 2021.

Please use this link to apply:

An informational webinar for health departments will be held on _____.

To register, please use this link: _____

