

# Kentucky Department for Public Health Student Internship Catalog Fall 2026

September 14 – December 31, 2026

Application Closes on July 13, 2026



**Kentucky Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



**TEAM**   
**KENTUCKY**<sup>®</sup>  
CABINET FOR HEALTH  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

# Kentucky Department for Public Health

## About Us



**Kentucky Public Health**

Prevent. Promote. Protect.



The Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) is dedicated to improving the health and safety of Kentuckians through *prevention, promotion, and protection*.

As a major part of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, KDPH provides guidance and support for health departments in all 120 counties.

Serving as Kentucky's dedicated public health resource, KDPH is responsible for identifying and allocating resources to communities and public health institutions to prevent and protect against diseases, outbreaks, and hazards statewide.

# Kentucky Department for Public Health

## Organizational Chart



# Office of the Commissioner

# Grant Ready: Creating Tools to Support Public Health Funding

- 🛡️ **Open to:** Bachelors
- 🛡️ **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
- 🛡️ **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 grant's 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](#)

# Data Modernization Policy Review Internship

- 🛡️ **Open to:** Masters, Doctorate
- 🛡️ **Supervisor:** Rhiannon Simon, MPH, Epidemiologist III
- 🛡️ **Desired Skills:** Computer skills (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel, Statistical Software); Familiarity with data-related terminology (data aggregation, clean-up/standardization of databases, matching); Legislative and Policy Related Experience (ability to interpret policy language).
- 🛡️ **Setting:** Virtual
- 🛡️ **Number of Hours per Week:** 10 per week
- 🛡️ **Project Description:** The Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) team is seeking an intern to work on DMI special projects as identified by the DMI strategic plan, data governance gap analysis, and data ecosystem assessments. The focus of this internship will be primarily on reviewing and collecting policies from other state public health agencies regarding data quality standards and metadata standards. The intern will summarize these policies in a report that will include suggestions for KDPH. The intern may contribute to other special projects that support ongoing DMI work across KDPH as well. Good communication skills and the ability to parse policy documents is essential. The intern will learn about data systems and technology, and their respective policies, that support the ongoing day-to-day operations of a state health department including data collection, management, protection and governance.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 1:** Data Quality Standards Policy Review Report
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 2:** Metadata Standards Policy Review Report
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 3:** Policy Review Report Supporting Documents, such as tables, one-pagers and visual aids as needed
- 🛡️ [To apply for the Data Modernization Project, use this application link](#)

# Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning

# Disaster Planning and Data Quality Review

- 🛡️ **Branch:** Division Office, Population Health
- 🛡️ **Open to:** Bachelors and Masters
- 🛡️ **Supervisor:** John Prather, MBA, Syndromic Surveillance Coordinator
- 🛡️ **Desired Skills:** Microsoft skills - PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, Word, communication, Data analysis and R
- 🛡️ **Setting:** Virtual, Hybrid
- 🛡️ **Number of Hours per Week:** 10 – 15 hours per week
- 🛡️ **Project Description:** The intern will help with syndromic surveillance disaster planning, query building and data analysis. The intern will create a clinic data quality report and virtual report cards for clinic data and hospital data.
- 🛡️ **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:** Assist with the creation of R reports
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 3:** Data quality analysis for non-hospital facilities
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 4:** Develop disaster queries to monitor
- 🛡️ [To apply for the Disaster Planning Project, use this application link](#)

# Geospatial Analysis of Environmental Hazards and Health Outcome Data

- 🏆 **Branch:** Infectious Disease, Reportable Disease Section
- 🏆 **Open to:** Masters, Doctorate
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** Meagan Hurst, MPH, Principal Investigator/Program Manager
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Computer skills (Microsoft Excel, Word, Outlook, Teams), experience with programs such as REDCap and ArcGIS (geographic information systems), data management and professional communication skills, ability to work independently and in a team-setting.
- 🏆 **Setting:** Virtual, Hybrid
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** Up to 20 hours
- 🏆 **Project Description:** The Reportable Disease Section is seeking 1-2 interns to work with the Kentucky Environmental Public Health Tracking (KY Tracking) program at the Kentucky Department for Public Health in the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning. This project is ideal for students seeking opportunities to develop skills in data visualization and understand how geography impacts human health. Students will be trained to develop accessible data visualizations in ArcGIS and Tableau to communicate environmental hazard, health behavior, and health outcome data. Additional job roles can include developing visualizations and communications with external partners to integrate additional data to the KY Tracking data portal (HealthTracking.ky.gov).
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** Analyze and prepare data for public use on the Kentucky Tracking data portal, integrating accessibility principles and data governance policies to protect patient data.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Develop public facing data visualizations, primarily in ArcGIS, to display data in a StoryMap or dashboard platform to educate end users on topics such as radon, access and functional needs, reportable diseases and others.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Identify opportunities for data integration to the KY Tracking data portal and establish partner projects with state organizations to facilitate data transfer and integration to the portal. Interns will work in partnership with KY Tracking staff on all partner projects.
- 🏆 [To apply for the Geospatial Analysis Project, use this application link](#)

# Kentucky Public Health Interview Team (PHIT)

- 🛡️ **Branch:** Infectious Disease Branch
- 🛡️ **Open to:** Bachelors, Masters
- 🛡️ **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:** Up to 20
- 🛡️ **Project Description:** The Reportable Disease Section is seeking 1-2 interns to work with the KY Public Health Interview Team (PHIT). 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 Project, use this application link](#)

# Division of Laboratory Services

# DLS Data, Documentation, and Outreach Enhancement Project

- 🛡️ **Branch:** Quality, Compliance and Safety Branch
- 🛡️ **Open to:** Bachelors, Masters
- 🛡️ **Supervisor:** Katelyn Cox, Public Health Lab Scientist Administrator
- 🛡️ **Desired Skills:** Computer skills, including Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel) and Canva or similar software.
- 🛡️ **Setting:** In-Person
- 🛡️ **Workstation Location:** 100 Sower Blvd, Frankfort Ky 40601
- 🛡️ **Number of Hours per Week:** at least 3-5 hours, but up to 20 hours per week
- 🛡️ **Project Description:** The QCS Branch is seeking an intern to support data analysis, documentation standardization, and communication efforts for the Division of Laboratory Services (DLS). This role will involve developing reports from laboratory data, organizing testing resources, and assisting with updates to standard operating procedures. The intern will also create clear, visually engaging outreach materials using tools such as Canva. This position offers the opportunity to collaborate with scientists and leadership while contributing to key division initiatives.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 1:** Analyze data from laboratory information systems to develop reports on testing volume and annual positivity rates.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 2:** Review the current testing menu and create three updated menus aligned with DLS testing sections: Environmental, Clinical and Newborn Screening.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 3:** Support scientists and leadership in standardizing and updating the formatting of Division Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 4:** Design and update or create informational one-pagers and banners highlighting the DLS using Canva or similar tools.
- 🛡️ [To apply for the DLS Data, Documentation, and Outreach Project, use this application link](#)

# Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement

# Building Interactive Dashboards and Web Apps in R Shiny

- 🛡️ **Branch :** Division Office/Other
- 🛡️ **Supervisor:** Adam Berrones, PhD, Data Analytics Manager/Epidemiologist III
- 🛡️ **Open to:** Bachelors, Masters
- 🛡️ **Number of Positions:** 2
- 🛡️ **Desired Skills:** R, SAS, Python, SQL, Databases, Analytics
- 🛡️ **Setting:** Virtual
- 🛡️ **Project Description:** The Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement (PQI) is seeking a motivated self-starter to assist with coding of dynamic web applications using the R Shiny framework. The student intern will assist with all phases of software development (from planning to maintenance) to obtain invaluable real-world skills in R programming. The primary focus will be leveraging public health related data sources such as Census, EPA, CDC, among others, to build visually pleasing and functional web applications.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 1:** Student will use version control (GitHub) to track coding changes.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 2:** Student will build modern interactive dashboards with bslib/shinydashboard/bs4Dash libraries.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 3:** Student will directly contribute to deploying live web applications.
- 🛡️ [To apply for the Building Interactive Dashboards Project, use this application link](#)

# Kentucky Healthcare Access Needs Assessment

- 🏆 **Branch:** Healthcare Access Branch
- 🏆 **Open to:** Masters
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** Beth Shafer, Health Policy Specialist II
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Research Methodology (study design, sample size, sampling methodology, epidemiologic, literature review/search); Familiarity with surveying/data tools (REDCap experience a plus); Interview/ Communication skills; Strong skills in writing, organization and attention to detail; analytic skills; ability to work independently; interest in rural/underserved health, healthcare workforce or health policy.
- 🏆 **Setting:** Virtual
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** Up to 20 hours
- 🏆 **Project Description:** The Kentucky Primary Care Office is seeking an intern to gain hands on experience contributing to a statewide healthcare needs assessment on healthcare access barriers in underserved and rural Kentucky. This is an opportunity to build applied research skills, analytic, and professional communication abilities. Working alongside Kentucky's Primary Care Office team connected to state, federal, and national healthcare workforce efforts, the intern will gain real insight into shortage designation and health policy.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** Key Informant Interview Series and Thematic Synthesis
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Needs Assessment Gaps Report
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Integrated Findings Report & Stakeholder Brief
- 🏆 [To apply for the Kentucky Healthcare Access Needs Assessment Project, use this application link](#)

# KPAP Communications Specialist

- 🏆 **Branch:** Healthcare Access Branch
- 🏆 **Open to:** Associates, Bachelors
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** Jennifer Toribio Naas, CSW, Health Program Administrator
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Microsoft 365 (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel, Teams), Canva, community-based experience, communications, public speaking skills, customer service skills.
- 🏆 **Setting:** Virtual, Hybrid
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** Up to 20 hours
- 🏆 **Project Description:** The Health Care Access Branch seeks an intern to promote the Kentucky Prescription Assistance Program (KPAP) services. The intern will use Canva to help create social media posts and data presentations that will enhance the public's awareness and understanding of KPAP. The intern will also work on outreach projects to promote KPAP.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** Utilize Canva to create social media posts to promote awareness of the KPAP Program.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Assist in auditing the Health Care Access Branch's eight web pages for accuracy and accessibility monthly.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Coordinate with KPAP Staff to work on outreach across Kentucky; help spread awareness of the program via phone calls, virtual or in-person meetings and by attending outreach events.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 4:** Assist Kentuckians that call the KPAP Hotline (training provided).
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 5:** Assist Kentuckians by processing prescription assistance applications in the office.
- 🏆 **[To apply for the KPAP Communications Specialist Project, use this application link](#)**

# Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant: Highlighting Kentucky's Outcomes 2020-2025

- 📌 **Branch:** Chronic Disease Prevention Branch
- 📌 **Open to:** Bachelors, Masters
- 📌 **Supervisor:** April Thomas, MPH, Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant Coordinator
- 📌 **Desired Skills:** Strong verbal and written communication skills, Microsoft 365 (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel, Teams); Canva familiarity preferred
- 📌 **Setting:** Hybrid
- 📌 **Number of Hours per Week:** Up to 20 hours
- 📌 **Project Description:** The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG) provides funding through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to address health problems, prevent diseases and promote health. PHHSBG funds help address priority state and local health issues and minimize gaps in public health programs with limited or no state funding available. CDC's ongoing evaluation findings show that the block grant has helped state, tribal, local and territorial agencies strengthen the public health system. However, federal and state budgets keep tightening, so it is vital that stakeholders understand the importance of these funds and what they can do to impact public health in Kentucky. The project goal is to develop a report with infographics and success stories that showcase that very impact.
- 📌 **Project Deliverable 1:** Review PHHSBG documents and data (KY and US) for 2020-2025, including workplans, reports, presentations, spreadsheets and webpages.
- 📌 **Project Deliverable 2:** Create infographics/success stories on KY's PHHSBG, including funding total overview and US comparison; funding by health topic area and US comparison; highlight programs/activities; others possible.
- 📌 **Project Deliverable 3:** Create and deliver a 15-30min presentation at the Community Health Action Teams (CHAT) Quarterly Meeting on December 9, 2026. on the findings and experience of the internship.
- 📌 **Project Deliverable 4:** Develop an outcomes report: "Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant: Highlighting Kentucky's Outcomes 2020-2025."
- 📌 [To apply for the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Project, use this application link](#)

# Promoting Data-Driven Decision Making Skills and Resources among Local Health Departments (LHDs)

- 🏆 **Branch:** Division Office, Office of Performance Improvement and Accreditation (OPIA)
- 🏆 **Open to:** Bachelors, Masters
- 🏆 **Supervisor:** Carrie Conia, KDPH/LHD Technical Assistance Coordinator
- 🏆 **Desired Skills:** Computer skills including Microsoft 365 (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel), Statistical Software and Geographic Information System (GIS), communications, research methodology (study design, sample size, sampling methodology, epidemiologic, literature review/search), database familiarity (date aggregation, clean-up/standardization of data bases, matching). Student will also be working in LHD Academy of Science - Kentucky (LHD AOS-KY) software platforms.
- 🏆 **Setting:** Virtual
- 🏆 **Number of Hours per Week:** Up to 20 hours
- 🏆 **Project Description:** The Office of Performance Improvement and Accreditation seeks an intern to strengthen collaboration among local, regional and state public health partners by supporting the LHD AOS-KY chapter. The goal of this project is to expand the capacity of LHD to collect, analyze and use data for public health decision-making through training, tools, resources and evaluation.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 1:** Assist with planning and delivery of LHD AOS-KY monthly meetings and at least one training workshop on topics related to data management, analysis or visualization.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 2:** Develop or adapt at least two evidence-based survey instruments for local public health use.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 3:** Create or update LHD AOS-KY resource materials.
- 🏆 **Project Deliverable 4:** Evaluate survey tools and datasets to identify and recommend opportunities for improvement
- 🏆 [To apply for the Promoting Data-Driven Decision Making Project, use this application link](#)

# State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program: Making Healthy Eating and Active Living more Accessible

- 🛡️ **Branch:** Chronic Disease Prevention Branch
- 🛡️ **Open to:** Bachelors, Masters
- 🛡️ **Supervisor:** Jaclyn Hodges, CHES, Health Program Administrator
- 🛡️ **Desired Skills:** Communication skills, Organizational Skills, Basic public health knowledge, Microsoft Office, Social Media or Graphic Design and an Interest in Communication Health
- 🛡️ **Setting:** Hybrid
- 🛡️ **Number of Hours per Week:** Up to 20 hours
- 🛡️ **Project Description:** The Kentucky State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program internship provides students and emerging professionals with hands-on experience supporting statewide public health initiatives focused on increasing physical activity, improving nutrition, and preventing chronic disease. Interns will assist with program planning, data collection, community engagement, communication materials and evaluation activities that support evidence-based health promotion strategies. Interns are expected to demonstrate professionalism, strong communication skills, attention to detail and the ability to work collaboratively with staff and community partners. Additional expectations include maintaining confidentiality, meeting assigned deadlines, participating in meetings and trainings and contributing to projects that advance equitable access to healthy living opportunities across the state.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 1:** Develop or update educational materials and communication resources related to physical activity, nutrition, and chronic disease prevention initiatives.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 2:** Support planning and coordination of meetings, trainings, workshops or community outreach events.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 3:** Prepare a final internship presentation or written summary highlighting completed projects, key accomplishments and recommendations for future program efforts.
- 🛡️ [To apply for the State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program Project, use this application link](#)

# Division of Public Health Protection and Safety

# Environmental Health Outbreak Investigations

- 🛡️ **Branch :** Division Office/Other
- 🛡️ **Open to:** Bachelors, Masters
- 🛡️ **Supervisor:** Margaret Riggs, PhD, MPH, MS, Disease Investigation Unit Lead
- 🛡️ **Desired Skills:** Microsoft 365 (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 Investigations Project, use this application link](#)

# Regulatory Quality Assurance Data Analyst

- 🛡️ **Branch:** Division Office, Regulatory Quality Assurance
- 🛡️ **Open to:** Associates, Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate
- 🛡️ **Supervisor:** Virginia Hamilton, REHS, CPH, Regulatory Performance Consultant
- 🛡️ **Desired Skills:** R programming, data visualization, statistical analysis, REDCap (preferred not required), data cleaning, computer skills (Microsoft 365 including Excel), Geographic Information Systems (GIS) preferred not required, data entry/management skills, ability to work independently and detail-oriented.
- 🛡️ **Setting:** In-Person, Hybrid
- 🛡️ **Workstation Location:** 275 East Main Street, Frankfort KY
- 🛡️ **Number of Hours per Week:** 10 hours
- 🛡️ **Project Description:** The Regulatory Quality Assurance Program is seeking an intern to assist with data analytics, program statistics, data visualization and trend reporting. This is an excellent opportunity to gain applied statistical analysis experience working with health department and environmental health data systems. The intern will be cross-trained in public health program evaluation as part of this role under the Evaluation Center. Additional job roles may include performing data entry or data cleaning/reconciliation.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 1:** Develop detailed trend reports using Quality Assurance standardization data from local health departments and local health inspectors.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 2:** Identify and connect data systems in REDCap and the Environmental Health Data System to allow for deeper insights into regulatory performance.
- 🛡️ **Project Deliverable 3:** Provide automated reporting structure for data visualization through R.
- 🛡️ [To apply for the Regulatory Quality Assurance Data Analyst Project, use this application link](#)

# Thank you.

Amy Winger, MS

Student Internship Program Administrator

[amy.winger@ky.gov](mailto:amy.winger@ky.gov)

(270) 418-7676

Scan the QR Code to Visit the Student Internship Program Website

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



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