CALL FOR MENTORS

To partially address the shortage of technical expertise in state and local-level chronic disease epidemiology, the National Mentorship Program in Applied Chronic Disease Epidemiology (Mentorship Program) has been developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD).

The goals of the Mentorship Program are to:

- enlarge the pool of trained chronic disease epidemiologists at public health agencies;
- improve the practice of chronic disease epidemiology; and
- increase the epidemiological science in chronic disease programs and policies.

At this time, CDC and NACDD seek senior chronic disease epidemiologists with substantial experience in applied chronic disease epidemiology to mentor a newly-hired or junior-level chronic disease epidemiologist at a state or local public health department. The mentoring program will begin in August 2015 and continue until June 30, 2016. Each mentorship will focus on a project- and competency-based need.

Mentee-mentor pairs will:

- select one or more of the following seven targeted competencies that the mentee wishes to strengthen: Planning; Analysis; Communication; Basic Public Health Sciences; Informatics and Computer Knowledge; Cultural Diversity; and Evaluation; and
- focus on a specific project (identified by the mentee) to strengthen his or her target competency(ies) in applied chronic disease epidemiology. Project(s) should be related to one of the essential functions of chronic disease epidemiology as described in the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist’s Applied Epidemiology Competencies Toolkit: Available at the CSTE Workforce: Competencies Web site. http://www.cste.org/group/CSTECDCSEC.

Mentor Commitment:

The mentor is expected to contribute up to 5% FTE time while engaged in the mentoring relationship. This commitment would include:

Mentoring Responsibilities:

- Develop mentoring work plan based mentee’s competency need and project;
- Maintain regular, frequent and substantive communication with mentee, approximately 1-2 hours per week;
- Complete one mentor site visit (mentor visits mentee at their place of employment) per year;
- Attend the annual CSTE meeting and provide in-person technical assistance, and
- Assist mentee in developing abstract for CSTE poster or breakout session presentation.

Administrative Duties:

- Provide necessary information and signature(s) for NACDD mentoring agreement;
- Attend monthly mentor conference calls;
- Share mentoring project status update and completed activities;
- Submit quarterly invoices for stipend payments and travel reimbursement;
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- Submit final project report and products to NACDD; and
- Complete required mid-course and final program evaluation and feedback.

At the beginning of the mentoring relationship, mentors will be expected to participate in training activities to enhance their mentoring skills and learn the details of the Mentorship Program. The mentor will work with the Project Consultant and the mentee to establish the Competency Development Plan (work plan) early in the mentoring relationship. Mentor participation in other activities is encouraged.

Criteria for Selecting Mentors:

Mentors from both the public and private sector are eligible to apply. Prospective mentors should have:
- Masters in Public Health or related masters degree (doctoral degree preferred);
- Five or more years of experience in applied epidemiology, two of which have been in chronic disease; and
- Two or more years of experience as a supervisor of epidemiologists or related professionals.

Selected mentors will receive a $5,000 stipend plus a travel scholarship to attend the 16th annual Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Conference Meeting and workshops, June 19-23, 2016, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Individuals interested in becoming mentors are asked to submit a cover letter and most recent Resume or Curriculum Vitae to nmccoy@chronicdisease.org by midnight, local time, on Friday, August 14, 2015. Cover letter should include specific details regarding participation (e.g., duration of availability, level of comfort with each of the seven targeted competencies) and comfort in fulfilling the role of a mentor (e.g., mentor skills, management experience, etc).

Please address correspondence to John Robitscher, MPH, Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, ATTN: Epidemiology Mentoring Program, 2200 Century Parkway, Suite 250, Atlanta, GA, 30345. Must scan and sent cover letter electronically.

To learn more about this opportunity, contact Natasha McCoy, NACDD Project Consultant, at nmccoy@chronicdisease.org.