

ASPPH | EPA

Environmental Health Fellowship

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

2025



ASPPH APPLIED LEARNING AND TRAINING PROGRAMS



CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
**WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**
— ASPPH

2025 Fellowship Opportunities *ASPPH/EPA Environmental Health Fellowship Program*

Program Announcement

The ASPPH/EPA Environmental Health Fellowship Program is supported through a cooperative agreement between the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ASPPH is the only national organization representing the deans, faculty, and students of the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accredited member schools of public health and other programs seeking accreditation as schools of public health.

The goal of the ASPPH/EPA Environmental Health Fellowship Program is to provide professional training and opportunities for early-career public health professionals to be involved with EPA on current and emerging environmental public health needs. EPA leads the nation's environmental science, research, education, and assessment efforts. Since 1970, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people. EPA is the country's primary developer of environmental policy and rule-making decisions. ASPPH/EPA Fellows train under nationally recognized experts who work to protect human health and the environment.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this program, applicants must have received their Masters or Doctorate degree prior to the beginning of the fellowship (no later than August 2025) or within the last five years (no earlier than May 2020). Graduate degrees must come from an ASPPH member graduate school or program of public health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). (For a list of ASPPH members, see www.ASPPH.org.) All applicants must be U.S. citizens or hold a visa permitting permanent residence ("Green Card") in the U.S. to be eligible for the fellowship program.

Period of Performance

Fellowship positions are full-time opportunities for a period of one-year (estimated start-date is between October 1, 2025 and November 1, 2025, and will end 12 months later). There is the possibility of a one-year extension, but this is not guaranteed.

Location

Fellows will be placed in various EPA offices, most of which are located in the Washington, D.C. area, but may also be located in any of several EPA laboratories, regional offices, or centers throughout the country. Applicants will be notified of exact assignment locations during the final selection phase and matching process. Selected fellows are required to relocate to the fellowship location.

Funds Available

The annual training stipend for the fellowship positions is **\$64,000** for **Masters** level candidates, and **\$76,000** for candidates with **terminal degrees** (MD, PhD, DrPH, JD, etc.). The fellowship training stipend is intended to cover all personal living expenses.

In addition to the fellowship training stipend, fellows will have access to a \$10,000 “general fellowship allowance” that is intended to offset the cost of health insurance premium expenses incurred during the one-year fellowship period. The “general fellowship allowance” may also be used to cover approved project-related travel, training, journal subscriptions, association dues, etc.

Expected Benefits

The Program provides leadership training in environmental science, research, education, and assessment efforts. Examples of possible ASPPH/EPA Fellow experiences include:

- Collaboration with leading experts in the fields of environmental health, toxicology, epidemiology, environmental health, social and behavioral sciences, biology, and risk assessment on important current and emerging public health issues like water and air safety, children’s health, green jobs and workforce development
- Participation in projects on cross-cutting health assessment issues
- Exposure to environmental research laboratories and specialized equipment
- Attainment of skills, experience, and knowledge to enhance careers as a public health researchers and practitioners
- Collaboration with environmental health experts inside and outside EPA
- Observation of the development of science policy guidance at the Agency level
- Participation in workshops
- Visits to research laboratories and field sites

Application Procedure

Applicants may select **up to three** “Fellowship Training Areas” in which they are most interested in fulfilling a fellowship. (See Page 5 to view Fellowship Training Areas) Final placements will be made during the last stage of the selection process.

Applications are to be completed online through the ASPPH Fellowship Online Application System at <https://fellowships-internships.aspph.org>. The materials needed to complete an application are detailed on the application form. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Please see below for detailed application instructions.

Applications must be **submitted electronically** no later than **11:59 PM Eastern Time** on:

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess the applicant's ability to participate in the fellowship program:

<u>Evaluation Criteria</u>	<u>Maximum Points</u>
Quality of Essays*	40
Strength of Credentials	25
Previous Experience	25
Recommendations	10
<i>*Special consideration will be given to candidates with exposure to a broad array of life experiences and viewpoints, and who can bring diverse perspectives and experiences to the fellowship project, environmental health, and public health in general. Applicants should highlight these attributes in their essay.</i>	

Objective Review Committee

In February 2025, ASPPH will convene an independent review committee consisting of public health professionals from the academic and practice communities. Reviewers will not review applications for candidates from schools with whom they are affiliated. The committee will score the applications based on the above-mentioned criteria. Applicants may be contacted by the committee for additional information and/or clarification of information relevant to the application.

Panel Review Committee

Applicants who receive top-tier objective review scores will be invited to interview with a Panel Review Committee via virtual format. ***This interview is mandatory for all applicants who wish to be considered for final placement in the Program.*** Interviews will be conducted ***virtually*** and are expected to occur in the first week of April 2025. Following the completion of the interviews, the Panel Review Committee will decide which applicants will move forward to the final review and matching phase.

Final Review


The final review of fellows will begin in April/May 2025. During this process, EPA staff will contact finalists for further interviews. A "matching" process will allow both the applicant and EPA staff to determine which applicants are best suited for fellowships within the participating EPA labs/offices affiliated with the Fellowship Training Areas to which the applicants applied. ***All applicants who reach this phase are not guaranteed to be placed in fellowship positions within EPA.*** Final placements will ultimately be determined by successful matches of applicants to available opportunities. Formal offers for fellowships are expected to be made beginning in mid-May 2025.

Application Instructions

The ASPPH Fellowships Online Application System is the centralized application service for the fellowship program. ASPPH offers this Web-based application to make the application process easy and convenient. You may begin your search and application immediately by clicking the link below:

<https://fellowships-internships.aspph.org>

The system is a secure website. To begin an online application, please create an account by clicking the "Sign up" link directly underneath the Login section. Signing up is free and easy. A password will need to be created to protect and save the account for future access. All information is transmitted through a secured server and is kept confidential until the application is submitted. An application is only reviewed by ASPPH staff after it has been submitted.

Please carefully read the instructions that appear throughout the online application system. After submission, applicants may edit applications by clicking on the pencil icon () in the "My Status" section at any time prior to the application deadline. The application may be edited as necessary at any time prior to the application due date. If this is done, applicants must then resubmit the application before the deadline passes in order to be received and reviewed by ASPPH. The following information/documents will be needed to complete the online application:

- Faculty Advisor name, phone number, and email address if you have not yet graduated
 - ❖ *When you submit your application, the system will generate an email to your Faculty Advisor asking them to verify your expected graduation date*.*

- Resume/CV (PDF only)

- Name, phone number, and email address for two references who will write your letters of recommendation
 - ❖ *Suggested references are individuals with whom the applicant has built a substantial relationship in the following areas: Academic, Public Health Practice, Volunteer or Community Service, or another professional that can effectively address the applicant's skills, qualities, and personal attributes.*
 - ❖ *When you submit your application, the system will generate an email to your two references asking them to upload their letters of recommendation*.*
 - ❖ *Letters of recommendation must be on official letterhead with an original signature and include the name, degree(s), title, institution, and contact information of the reference.*

- You will have two essay prompts:
 - ❖ *Explain the ways in which your personal and professional interests, strengths, and qualifications match the particular fellowship assignment and track you are applying for, and how it will benefit your long-term career plans in the field of public/population health. Special consideration will be given to candidates with exposure to a broad array of life experiences and viewpoints, and who can bring diverse perspectives and understandings to the fellowship project in particular and public health in general. Applicants should highlight these attributes in their essay.*
Note: If you are applying to two (2) or more positions, address them each in separate essays – one per Fellowship Training Area. Max. 1,000 words per essay; PDF format.
 - ❖ *EPA believes "Environmental stewardship is integral to U.S. policies concerning natural resources, human health, economic growth, energy, transportation, agriculture, industry, and international trade, and these factors are similarly considered in establishing environmental policy." Reflecting on your personal and professional experiences, describe how environmental stewardship has had a direct impact on you and/or your community.*
Note: One essay only. Max. 850 words; PDF format.

- ❑ Unofficial graduate transcripts (ASPPH Member School or Program of Public Health only; PDF only)
 - ❖ *If you are offered and accept a fellowship position, you will be required to provide an official graduate transcript.*

IMPORTANT: Please note that the Online Application System will not generate the email to your Faculty Advisor or References until you click the “Submit” button in Step 5 of the application. Saving the application for later submission will not generate these emails. The deadline for your Faculty Advisor and References to submit their portions is the same as the application deadline below. Therefore, you should not wait until the last day to submit your application, because your Faculty Advisor and References will not have time to complete their sections. You will be able to submit early in the system to generate the emails, and then re-open and edit the application as needed for completion. Any applications not submitted or not completed by the deadline will not be reviewed, and the applicant will not be eligible.

**Applications must be submitted electronically through the Online Application System,
By **11:59 PM Eastern Time on Wednesday, January 29, 2025.****

******Fellowship Training Areas Below******

Fellowship Training Areas for 2025

When applying to the ASPPH/EPA Environmental Health Fellowship Program, **you are allowed to select at least one, but no more than three, of the following Fellowship Training Areas in which you would be most interested.** Please select those Fellowship Training Areas that align most closely to your own personal skills, interests, and experiences. Ultimately, specific fellowship project goals will be developed by each individual fellow, with the guidance of EPA mentor(s), in line with the objectives and activities of the host EPA lab/office, and the career objectives of the fellow. Projects will be self-directed by the fellow and will not include work that is typically done by EPA staff for the benefit of EPA. As program participants in an EPA-funded grant, ASPPH/EPA Fellows are not employees of EPA and cannot be assigned EPA work, but rather will participate in learning activities and research activities that will foster their professional development.

The themes and programmatic subcategories given below provide illustrations of public health-related activities that EPA is empowered to work in under its governing legislation. The lists are intended to serve as guides to applicants in deciding where they might best fit within the agency. It does not represent the universe of available opportunities. Further, there is no guarantee that Fellows will be able to work on projects in the areas listed below. ASPPH offers this information as a way to stimulate ideas among applicants about the kind of projects they might wish to pursue while participating in a fellowship at EPA. In addition, fellowship placements can potentially include cross-cutting programs such as Homeland Security and health research.

Fellowship Training Area # EPA-25-001: *Public Health and Climate Crisis*

- Implement assessment plans to account for the impacts of the changing climate on human health and the environment.
- Assist communities that are underserved and disproportionately at risk from climate change, to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change.

Fellowship Training Area # EPA-25-002: *Environmental Justice and Civil Rights*

- Reduce disparities in environmental and public health conditions.
- Provide for meaningful involvement and fair treatment of communities with environmental justice concerns.
- Integrate environmental justice considerations to achieve civil rights compliance, planning, guidance, policy directives, monitoring, and review activities.
- Conduct post-award civil rights compliance reviews to address discrimination issues in environmentally overburdened and underserved communities.
- Conduct outreach events with overburdened and underserved communities and environmental justice advocacy groups on civil rights and environmental justice issues.

Fellowship Training Area # EPA-25-003: *Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities*

- Strive to ensure all people with low socio-economic status live in areas where the air quality meets the current fine particle pollution National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Fellowship Training Area # EPA-25-004: *Clean and Safe Water for All Communities*

- Reduce the number of community water systems still in noncompliance with health-based standards.
- Reduce the number of community water systems in Indian country still in noncompliance with health-based standards.
- Provide access to basic sanitation for American Indian and Alaska Native homes.
- Provide Tribal, small, rural, or underserved communities with technical, managerial, or financial assistance to improve operations of their drinking water or wastewater systems.

Fellowship Training Area # EPA-25-005: *Safety of Chemicals for People and the Environment*

- Conduct toxic chemical risk analysis (risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication) for the Toxic Substance Compliance Act.
- Enhance understanding of pesticide regulations and pesticide risk analysis for new active ingredients.
- Support Agricultural Worker Protection Standard pesticide safety training.

Fellowship Training Area # EPA-25-006: *Children's Environmental Health*

- Strategize for communication and education challenges and approaches for conveying environmental health issues to the public.
- Conduct environmental health risk assessment and science policy analyses related to children's health in Agency actions, including the potential for unique exposures, hazards, health effects, and health risks in children during development.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- The preceding statements for potential projects are intended to describe general activities associated with each fellowship training area. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all activities, skills, or efforts associated with each fellowship.
- It is possible that multiple positions could be filled under a single Fellowship Training Area. It is also possible that no fellowship opportunities will be available in a Fellowship Training Area. (i.e., it is not guaranteed that a fellow will be placed under each of the Fellowship Training Areas described above.) Final placements for all Fellowship Training Areas will be determined during the final review and selection phase of the application process.