



Jim Bernstein Community Health Leadership Fellows Program

a program of the Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation

2019 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

The purpose of the Jim Bernstein Community Health Leadership Fellows Program is to develop future leaders to work in and improve the health of rural and underserved communities in North Carolina. The Fellows Program commemorates the life and career contributions of James D. Bernstein, North Carolina's rural health pioneer who led the state's efforts for community-driven care of low- and moderate-income, isolated, and underserved populations for more than 30 years. The program supports the work and careers of outstanding individuals who share Jim's beliefs that:

- Everyone has a right to health care,
- Care should be delivered in a respectful, effective and efficient manner, and
- The health care system belongs to the communities where people live and providers practice.

With this announcement, the Jim Bernstein Community Health Leadership Fellows Program solicits applications from individuals who work in organizations that serve rural and underserved populations in North Carolina.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Fellowships will be awarded to up-and-coming health professionals (administrators, practitioners, etc.) from a variety of disciplines (primary care, pharmacy, behavioral health, oral health, public health, social work, etc.). Fellowships are awarded for a two-year period and are comprised of an educational component, an individualized project, and an ongoing relationship with a mentor centered on the core elements of:

- Building leadership capabilities
- Understanding key elements of the health sector in North Carolina
- Recognizing strengths and challenges of rural communities
- Collaborating effectively with local and state partners

EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

Educational sessions will be held over the two-year fellowship period to enhance each Fellow's overall understanding of rural health and to develop each Fellow's professional skills as they relate to the current health climate. During the fellowship period, approximately 12 days will be dedicated to educational programming. The Fellows program is not part of a degree-granting program.

PROJECT COMPONENT

The project will be individualized in accordance with the Fellow's professional interests and goals and the goals of the Fellow's employer. Each Fellow will have an opportunity to work with a mentor relative to their identified project. During the fellowship period, each Fellow will submit project progress reports, and at the conclusion of the program, each Fellow will submit a project summary and share their summaries with their local communities and the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation.

Important Dates

Application Open: **March 11**

Informational Webinar:
April 9 at Noon

Deadline to Apply: **May 10**

Interviews & Selection

Interviews with select applicants will take place on **June 27th**. If extreme circumstance prevents an applicant from interviewing on this date, arrangements can be made to ensure the opportunity for interview.

Fellows will be notified of selection to the program no later than **July 15th**.

Orientation for new Fellows will take place in October 2019 - specific **dates TBA**.

To Apply:

Email your complete submission packet to:
rachel.presslein@foundationhli.org

-or-

Mail your complete submission packet to:
Attn: Rachel Presslein
2401 Weston
Parkway Suite 203
Cary, NC 27513



More Information:

For more information about the Fellows Program, visit: www.foundationhli.org/programs/bernstein-fellows

-or-

To speak with someone regarding the Fellows Program or the application process, contact:

RACHEL PRESSLEIN

Operations & Development Manager,
Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation
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TOM BACON

Director, Jim Bernstein Community Health Leadership Fellows Program
919-219-4826
tom_bacon@med.unc.edu

COMMITMENT

Fellows will be expected to spend 10-12 percent of their work time on fellowship activities.

FUNDING FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

Each Fellow will receive up to \$3,000 in support of developing his/her fellowship project. The fund will also support travel and registration costs for required educational sessions. The Fellow's employer is expected to provide salary support. Funds awarded may not be used to supplement the salary of a Fellow. However, in unusual circumstances, the Foundation may choose to provide a greater level of funding for those working in financially-stressed organizations in order to assure that no qualified applicant is denied participation.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for consideration, an individual must:

- Work in an organization that is located in or serves a rural and/or underserved community in North Carolina,
- Demonstrate a commitment to community-driven health care,
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to remaining in North Carolina,
- Demonstrate leadership potential (such as, being a self-starter, resourceful, industrious, motivated, mature, resilient, a good communicator, problem-solver, and team player),
- Be sensitive to cultural diversity among client populations in health care settings and programs, and
- Hold realistic expectations about working in rural or underserved communities and with vulnerable populations.

SUBMISSIONS

Interested applicants are asked to submit the following items:

- Curriculum vitae or resume (to serve as your cover page),
- Written statement (see prompt below),
- Letter of support from the employer,
- Letter of recommendation from a professional source, and
- Signed Statement of Understanding and Commitment (see attached)

Your written statement should address your interest and goals for the fellowship program. It should answer the following questions:

- Why are you interested in participating in the fellowship program?
- What is your understanding of what the fellowship program can offer you as a health professional?
- What are your strengths and challenges as a health professional?
- What personal and professional goals, relative to developing the leadership skills stated in this request for applications, do you hope to achieve in this program? What does achievement of those goals look like (how will your goals be measured) at the end of the fellowship term?
- What are some areas of interest you wish to pursue in the development of your fellowship project?
- What communities and agencies would be affected by your project interests, and how can your project work bring positive and lasting change to these communities and agencies?

The Jim Bernstein Community Health Leadership Fellows Program is administered by the Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation and is overseen by the Jim Bernstein Health Leadership Committee of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

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STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND COMMITMENT

By my signature below, I state that I have:

- reviewed the mission, vision, and scheduling commitments of the Bernstein Fellowship;
- informed my immediate supervisor that I will devote 10-12% of my work schedule to the Fellowship to attend educational opportunities and work on my project;
- obtained a letter of support from my immediate supervisor to participate in the Fellowship and a letter of recommendation from a professional other than my immediate supervisor; and
- prepared a written statement and curriculum vitae or resume.

Applicant's Printed Name

Applicant's Signature

Date

Supervisor's Printed Name

Supervisor's Signature

Date

Please include this statement with your Fellows Program application.

