

Program Name: HSHPS/Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Graduate Fellowship Training Program

Placement Site: Nationwide including Puerto Rico

Award Information: Paid

Length: 10 weeks full time

The HSHPS/VA Graduate Fellowship Training Program (GFTP) places fellows at various locations including Puerto Rico. VA is a federal agency that was created to fulfill President Lincoln's promise: "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans. With funding provided by VA, Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), HSHPS assists their efforts to build a diverse workforce and cultivate an inclusive workplace to deliver the best services to our Nation's Veterans, their families, and beneficiaries. [The fellow must know English at least at Level 3 Professional Working Proficiency.](#)

The goal of the 10 week fellowship is to increase the overall knowledge of public health, to provide the necessary tools needed to enhance the fellow's career in the health field, and to increase the overall understanding of the VA as a federal agency. The fellow is matched with a mentor, an experienced staff member of the VA, depending on their area of interest, experience, and availability of projects. The fellow will assist their mentor with various aspects of a project and attend weekly online seminars on professional development and health disparities.

Project descriptions will be sent to the fellow one month prior to the start date. Project topics include, but are not limited to: Hospital Administration, Nursing Administration, Program Administration, Patient Safety/Satisfaction, Secondary Data Analysis, Knowledge Management/Workforce, Women's Health, and Health Promotion/Education. Former participants have worked on projects such as:

- Patient Safety Program: Supported the Patient Safety Office to coordinate and lead performance improvement groups such as Root Cause Analysis to reduce healthcare performance gaps under the Medical Director
- Cardiac Cancer Study: Pre-clinical evaluation of a study involving hormones produced in the heart as they relate to cancer treatment. Work included facets of toxicology, mechanisms of action, and pharmacokinetics in mice/rats to evaluate the use of cardiac hormones to eliminate tumors.
- Medical Administration: Rotation through all sections of Healthcare Administration Services from enrollment, to health information management among others while becoming versed in policies relating to administration of medical benefits. Trainee became familiar with congressional VA budgeting, development, emergency preparedness and visited VA clinics.

HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION

Should fellows live within 30mi from the work site, HSHPS will not coordinate or pay for housing.

Should fellows be placed in Washington DC and do not live within 30mi from work site, HSHPS will coordinate and pay for housing. Fellows are typically placed in a two bedroom apartments and share the unit with three other individuals. Housing is within walking distance of office or public transportation. Housing amenities include: completely furnished apartment with laundry facilities, air conditioning/heater, kitchen appliances, bed, dresser, and dining room table and chairs. The housing facilities do NOT include bed sheets and towels. HSHPS cannot guarantee that the housing will include wireless internet connection or television.

Should fellows be placed outside of Washington DC and do not live within 30mi from work site, HSHPS will not coordinate housing. However, HSHPS will provide a monthly housing allowance for three months. The allowance amount will vary depending on location and typically range from \$300-\$800.

HSHPS *highly* encourages applicants to research the public transportation system at the program site, as well as the cost of renting a car, walking, and biking to and from the office. HSHPS will neither rent cars nor reimburse costs for any private rentals or parking passes. HSHPS will not arrange transportation from the airport to the housing facilities nor from the housing facilities to the office.

AWARD PACKAGE

- Stipend: \$300/week
- Transportation to Program Site Reimbursement (airfare, train or mileage): Maximum of \$500
- Local Travel: \$30/week
- Sponsored Housing (please refer to *HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION* section above)

ELIGIBILITY

- Minimum GPA 2.7
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident (no visas or work permits)
- Only *current* students from accredited institutions: undergraduates, graduate, or doctoral students may apply
- Individuals with five or more years of professional experience in the health field are not eligible to apply for this program
- English working proficiency (written and oral)
- Spanish fluency varies depending on program

Please DO NOT apply for the program if you are unable to participate the full length of the program or are not a current student at an accredited institution.