

**The University of Arizona
Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health
Template for Internship Advertisements**

Organization Name

National Kidney Foundation of Arizona (NKF AZ).

Level of Expertise Needed

MPH Program intern: Assist with program design and coordinate implementation.

Undergraduate Health Education Program intern: Follow-up outreach and engagement of rural community stakeholders with transportation and health education resources.

Internship Project Title

Expansion of transportation assistance to rural dialysis and kidney transplant patients.

Project Description

NKF AZ has been encouraged for some time by social workers outside of Maricopa County to expand transportation resources for dialysis patients in rural parts of the state. The Foundation has been seeking new sources of funding to make this possible and it is likely those efforts will bear fruit for fiscal year 2019, which starts on July 1st, 2018. What we propose to do is to cultivate partnerships with entities such as the Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG), the Northern Arizona Council of Governments, (NACOG), the Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG), the Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO), and the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) that already provide some transportation assistance for their elderly and disabled constituents. We propose to engage with them to expand the accessibility of their transportation programs to dialysis patients. NKF Arizona also wants to support the travel needs of kidney transplant candidates and kidney transplant recipients who must come from rural parts of Arizona to urban transplant centers for their transplant work ups and for follow-up appointments post-transplant. The cultivation of relationships may include some travel to communities served by these stakeholders to present health education, orientation to the NKF AZ mission programs as a whole, and orientation to expanded transportation assistance.

MPH Program intern: An MPH intern's role would be to help cultivate our relationships with those governmental non-profit organizations, help establish expanded access to those rural transportation resources, help to figure out the logistics of patient utilization, and help to educate stakeholders (dialysis companies, transplant centers, and nephrology social workers) about the expanded resources. Bilingual skills a plus (especially Spanish)

Undergraduate Health Education Program intern: Focus on assisting with relationship cultivation, orientation of stakeholders, and implementing the expanded application procedures. Bilingual skills a plus (especially Spanish)

Student Characteristics

Interest in developing collaborations with multiple community organizations to achieve common goals.

Interest in orienting nephrology social workers and patients to NKF AZ programs.

Interest in launching new procedures for processing assistance applications.

Interest in exploring new approaches to raising awareness about kidney disease, diabetes, and heart disease.

Interest in cultivating and utilizing volunteer assets.

Organization Background

Since 1963, the mission of the NKF AZ has been to deliver patient-centered programs that provide financial assistance to dialysis/transplant patients, public education, and free health screenings for early detection and prevention of chronic kidney disease. Our mission to improve the quality of life for Arizonans with kidney disease has awarded well over \$9 million in assistance to thousands of patients needing transportation, medications, nutritional support, dental care, emergency living expenses and educational scholarships. Direct patient aid has a visible impact on health and quality of life, but it represents only part of our mission. The prevention of kidney disease through awareness, education, and research is an equal part of what we do. Our efforts encompass diverse programs, such as: 1) the Erma Bombeck Project to promote living donation and to mentor potential donors; 2) the Path to Wellness health screening (an original research design) that commands a volunteer pool of over 500 people; and 3) the Southwest Nephrology Conference for continuing professional education (now in its 19th year). This internship opportunity will strengthen the NKF AZ's mission to prevent chronic disease progression in rural communities and to expand transportation assistance to patients already in kidney failure.

Where

*National Kidney Foundation of Arizona
360 E. Coronado Rd., Suite 180
Phoenix, AZ 85004*

When

We anticipate new funding for rural transportation assistance in fiscal year 2019, which starts on July 1, 2018 and continues through June 30, 2019. The program expansion is expected to be ongoing without a pre-determined end date.

Supervision

*James Ivie, PhD, LCSW
Director of Patient Services*

Compensation/Benefits

There is no stipend for the work. Work-related mileage is available for travel.

Application Contact Information

For more information and to schedule an interview contact:

James Ivie, PhD, LCSW

(602) 840-1644

jivie@azkidney.org