

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

Organization Name

National Kidney Foundation of Arizona.

Level of Expertise Needed

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

Undergraduate Health Education Program intern: Follow-up outreach and engagement of community health screening participants with health resources.

Internship Project Title

Path to Wellness: Community Engagement for Chronic Disease Prevention

Project Description

Heart disease, diabetes and kidney disease are among the leading killers of chronic disease patients in Arizona, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data show that American Indians, African Americans, Hispanics, and Asians are disproportionately impacted by these diseases. Most patients do not learn about the relationships between these conditions until their most advanced stages. The National Kidney Foundation of Arizona (NKF AZ) has developed an intervention model called Path to Wellness that cultivates community engagement for chronic disease prevention. The model establishes recurring cycles of 1) outreach to target communities; 2) free comprehensive screening services; and 3) follow-up opportunities for further education and engagement with health resources. 1) Target communities are defined as those that are poor, underserved, and at increased risk for diabetes, cardiovascular, and kidney diseases. Underserved populations often contend with more barriers to health care resources than the mainstream population due to language differences and cultural traits that constrain communication, trust, and understanding. For those reasons, outreach involves continuous cultivation of partnerships with community leaders and organizations that have communication networks capable of attracting the interest of hard to reach populations. 2) Free quarterly screening events can process up to 200 people with the help of over 60 volunteers per event. Our volunteer pool includes over 250 people who represent dozens of different organizations. Our use of point-of-care testing devices provides blood and urine test results in a matter of minutes, which are reviewed onsite by volunteer physicians. 3) All screening participants are offered free enrollment in chronic disease self-management workshops. Uninsured participants are introduced to health insurance marketplace navigators who offer help to apply for AHCCCS or other insurance options they may be eligible for. Help is also given to connect participants with primary care resources such as local community health centers or free clinics.

MPH Program intern: Focus on development of the follow-up phase of Path to Wellness by updating the protocol for maintaining participant engagement and coaching for activation of greater use of preventive health resources. Coordinate implementation of that protocol within the NKF AZ Patient Services Department, in collaboration with partner organizations, and through our large volunteer pool. Bilingual skills a plus (especially Spanish)

Undergraduate Health Education Program intern: Focus on actual outreach to the target population in all three phases of each Path to Wellness cycle. Special emphasis will focus on the follow-up phase to coach for activation of greater use of preventive health resources. Work within the NKF AZ Patient Services Department, with contacts at partner organizations, and with volunteers. Bilingual skills a plus (especially Spanish)

The expected outcomes are improved post-screening engagement of program participants, increased attendance at chronic disease self-management workshops, increased health insurance coverage for uninsured/underinsured participants, and increased connection of at-risk participants with a medical home.

Student Characteristics

Interest in direct interaction with populations at increased risk of common chronic diseases (diabetes, heart and kidney diseases).

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

Interest in cultivating and utilizing volunteer assets.

Interest in exploring new applications of the Health Information Exchange.

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 250 people; and 3) the Southwest Nephrology Conference for continuing professional education (now in its 18th year). This internship opportunity will strengthen the NKF AZ's mission to prevent chronic disease progression in communities that are the most at-risk and the least engaged with health resources.

Where

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

When

We project four quarterly cycles of Path to Wellness in calendar year 2017 that will attract new program participation. Follow-up outreach to the over 1,000 program participants already engaged will continue throughout the year. The program is open-ended 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. There may be publication opportunities that can include student.

Application Contact Information

*For more information and to schedule an interview contact:
James Ivie, PhD, LCSW
(602) 840-1644
jivie@azkidney.org*