



Organization Name:

South Tucson Operation Prevention Intervention and Treatment Coalition, PPEP Inc.

Organization Background:

South Tucson Operation Prevention Intervention and PPEP (Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc.) are organizations that focus on community development, education, and prevention programs, particularly in underserved areas.

South Tucson Operation Prevention Intervention (STOPit) is a local initiative that works to prevent substance abuse and other community issues through education, outreach, and collaboration. The coalition brings together schools, law enforcement, health agencies, and community groups to address public health concerns.

PPEP (Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc.)

PPEP was founded in 1967 in Arizona and focuses on providing education, employment, housing, and human services to disadvantaged and rural populations, including migrant workers. The organization offers vocational training, alternative education, behavioral health services, and economic development programs to empower communities.

Internship Project Title

STOPit Prevention Assistant

Project Description:

The South Tucson Operation Prevention Intervention (STOPit) Coalition is a community-based initiative dedicated to reducing youth substance use, promoting mental wellness, and strengthening community connections through education, prevention strategies, and collaboration. The coalition brings together local leaders, schools, youth, parents, and service providers to address risk factors and build protective factors that support healthy youth development.

As part of the internship, individuals will actively participate in coalition activities, including community outreach events, prevention campaigns, and educational workshops. Interns will work directly with children, teens, and parents, helping to facilitate interactive activities, lead discussions on healthy decision-making, and provide engaging prevention education in both school and community settings.

This project provides hands-on experience in public health outreach, community engagement, and youth program facilitation. Interns will develop skills in event coordination, public speaking, and working with diverse populations, while contributing to meaningful efforts that create a safer and healthier South Tucson community.

The STOPit Internship provides hands-on experience in public health, community organizing, and prevention strategies. Interns will support coalition activities, research,

outreach efforts, and event planning while gaining valuable experience in community engagement and nonprofit operations.

Key Responsibilities

- Assist in the development and implementation of community prevention events
- Conduct research on substance abuse trends, mental health initiatives, and public health strategies
- Help coordinate community outreach events, workshops, and awareness campaigns
- Create social media content, newsletters, and educational materials
- Collaborate with community partners, schools, and local organizations
- Attend coalition meetings and contribute to strategy discussions

Internship project keywords (check all that apply).

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| ☒ Health Disparities | ☐ Maternal/Infant Health |
| ☒ Public Health Preparedness | ☒ Tobacco Use |
| ☒ Collaborations with Community | ☐ Injury/Violence Prevention |
| ☐ Collaborations with University | ☐ Immunization |
| ☒ Community health service | ☐ Infectious Disease |
| ☐ Physical Activity | ☐ Oral Health |
| ☒ Substance Abuse | ☐ Evaluation |
| ☒ Mental Health | ☐ Policy Development |
| ☐ Access to care | ☒ Program Planning |
| ☐ Nutrition | ☐ Data Analysis |
| ☐ Reproductive/Sexual Health | ☐ Other Click or tap here to enter text. |
| ☐ Environmental Health | |

When: When do you want the work done? Check all that apply.

☐Fall Semester

☐Spring Semester

☐Summer Term

☒I want this listing to remain active indefinitely and we will accept applications from students for any upcoming semester.

☐This listing is only for a specific semester/term: _____

Where:

Organization Mailing Address: 1200 E Ajo #101, Tucson AZ 85713

Address where Student will work (if different from above): Click or tap here to enter text.

☐Check here if the student may have the option to work remotely from a site not listed above for all or part of this project.

Student Characteristics:

The ideal student for a South Tucson Operation Prevention Intervention (STOPit) internship is passionate about community engagement and public health, demonstrating

a strong commitment to social impact and prevention initiatives. They possess excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, enabling them to effectively engage with diverse community members, stakeholders, and professionals. A successful intern is proactive, adaptable, and eager to take initiative, displaying strong research and analytical thinking abilities to contribute to program development and policy discussions. Organizational skills and time management are essential, as interns will balance multiple responsibilities, from event planning to data collection. Additionally, cultural awareness and sensitivity are key, ensuring respectful and inclusive interactions with diverse populations. Familiarity with technology, including social media and digital outreach tools, is a plus, along with the ability to work collaboratively in a team-oriented environment while also being self-motivated and independent in their tasks.

Level of Expertise Needed: Do you wish to request an MPH program intern or an undergraduate public health program intern?

Currently pursuing or recently completed a degree in Public Health, Social Work, Psychology, Education, or a related field
Passion for community health, prevention programs, and social change
Strong communication and organizational skills
Ability to work independently and in a team environment
Experience with social media, event planning, or research is a plus
Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Both experiences prepare students for future employment.

☒ MPH

☒ Undergraduate

☒ Either

Supervision

Stephany Ortega the Prevention Coordinator for the South Tucson Operation Prevention Intervention (STOPit) Coalition, provides leadership, oversight, and strategic direction for coalition initiatives aimed at reducing youth substance use and strengthening community prevention efforts. She is responsible for coordinating program activities, managing timelines, and ensuring alignment with grant objectives and evidence-based prevention strategies. Her supervision includes task delegation, progress monitoring, and professional development support to build leadership capacity among team members. She fosters a collaborative environment that encourages creativity, cultural sensitivity, and community engagement. In her role, Stephany is known for being friendly, approachable, and highly respectful. She works closely with youth, parents, schools, and community partners to develop and implement prevention programming. She ensures all activities are inclusive, goal-oriented, and measurable, while maintaining compliance with reporting and funding requirements. Her supervision style emphasizes open communication, accountability, and empowerment, helping both staff and coalition members grow in their roles while advancing the STOPit Coalition's mission. South Tucson Operation Prevention Intervention (STOPit) internship provides students with structured supervision to ensure a supportive and enriching learning experience. Interns will work under the guidance of a designated supervisor who will provide regular

check-ins, feedback, and mentorship. Supervision includes goal-setting, progress evaluations, and opportunities for skill development in community outreach, research, and program coordination. Interns will also collaborate with team members and have access to resources to enhance their professional growth while maintaining a balance of independence and support in their tasks.

Compensation/Benefits/Professional Development

This is an unpaid internship, but interns will gain valuable hands-on experience in community outreach, public health, and prevention initiatives. They will have the opportunity to develop professional skills, receive mentorship from experienced leaders, and network with professionals in the field. Interns may also participate in professional development opportunities, including workshops, training sessions, and conferences related to prevention and community health.

Application Contact Information

Please contact Stephany Ortega sortega@ppep.org with a resume and cover letter.