

National Headquarters
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www.astho.org
@ASTHO

January 17, 2018

Public Health Associate Program
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
MS-E85
4770 Buford Hwy, NE
Atlanta, GA 30341

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my full support for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) Performance Improvement team's application to host a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Associate Program associate (PHAP). ASTHO, as the national nonprofit organization representing state, territorial, and freely associated state (S/T/FAS) public health agencies has a mission to support, equip, and advocate for state and territorial health officials in their work of advancing the public's health and well-being. The Performance Improvement team, specifically works closely with the CDC's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support to support high performing and accountable health agencies by strengthening the public health infrastructure, building S/T/FAS health agency capacity, and communicating the value of public health to improve public health agency performance for improved population health outcomes.

As the association for the health officials of all states and territories, ASTHO provides the opportunity to view public health work in not one, but a variety of health departments across the country. Because of the broad scope of public health generally and state public health specifically, the scope of ASTHO's work is broad as well, covering all 10 of the Essential Public Health Services. As such, ASTHO's staff have expertise in a wide range of public health areas, ranging from community health and prevention, preparedness and environmental health, performance improvement, research and evaluation, workforce development, informatics, and population health. Further, ASTHO employs a number of early-career public health professionals, and as such is equipped to provide a PHAP a meaningful and robust experience in public health programs and service delivery.

I have no doubt that during the PHAP's time at ASTHO s/he will gain valuable public health skills in a number of PHAP competencies through hands-on experience in collecting, analyzing and disseminating information across various fields within public health, exploring the use evidence-based practices, as well as build familiarity with the Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB) accreditation and concepts of performance improvement, public health infrastructure, and essential public health planning. The work of the PHAP will bring value to ASTHO and their members by examining ASTHO's programmatic areas and proposing opportunities for alignment with PHAB requirements and use of evidence-based practices to better support S/T/FAS pursuit of public health accreditation. Finally, the PHAP will bring value to the field of public health through the development of a comprehensive report on the state of

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the states, territories and freely associated states by collecting and analyzing key plans required by PHAB to identify trends, evidence-based practices, promising practices, strategies and resources.

I think you will agree that ASTHO's Performance Improvement team is perfectly positioned to host and support the needs of a PHAP, who will be treated as a valued member of the Performance Improvement team and ASTHO family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MRF", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael R. Fraser, PhD MS CAE FCPP
Executive Director
Association of State & Territorial Health Officials