



Health Improvement Collaborative of Southeastern Connecticut (HIC)

HEC Project Grant

Community Ambassador Job Description

Nov 2019 - Jan 2020

Summary

The Southeastern Connecticut Health Improvement Collaborative (HIC) is hiring 9 local residents to serve as Community Ambassadors on a State funded, short term project. Community Ambassadors will work with HIC leaders to co-create a community engagement plan. The plan will recommend clear pathways for resident voice and collective decision making in our work towards health equity.

Community Ambassadors will attend 5-6 planning sessions in New London and interview at least ten of their fellow community members. Ambassadors will be temporary employees of Ledge Light Health District, working up to 40 hours between 12/1/19 - 1/31/20 and will be compensated \$25/hr for their time. People of color and bilingual residents who speak English and Spanish or Haitian Creole are encouraged to apply.

The HIC is a collaboration of local health focused stakeholders that work to identify community health priorities and make recommendations to address the systemic barriers to health.

Background

The Health Improvement Collaborative of Southeastern Connecticut (HIC) is a partnership of Ledge Light Health District, L+M Hospital, higher education and numerous health providers, social services, nonprofits and community based organizations. The HIC uses data to identify, prioritize and address the barriers to health and wellness for residents in Southeastern Connecticut. Members of the HIC understand the impact that societal factors and systems of oppression have on health. We recognize that there is a misperception of people in poor health- that they don't take personal responsibility for their own wellbeing and that this narrative is simply false. The HIC is focused on racism as a public health issue for our upcoming work.

The HIC was recently awarded a grant from the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy as a part of the ongoing exploration by the State of Connecticut to create Health Enhancement Communities, or HECs. The HEC Initiative is aimed at

improving the health and well-being of all residents in Connecticut, and reducing the rising trends of Connecticut's health care costs by improving community health, health equity, and preventing poor health.

The goal of this short three month grant is to work with local residents and community organizations to create a community engagement plan that centers the voice of those most impacted by HEC's identified priority areas: childhood wellness & obesity.

Community Ambassadors

With these grant funds, the HIC is hiring local residents to work with HIC members on a community engagement strategy. The work accomplished in this initial 90 day period will build a foundation for HIC community engagement work over the next two years.

The work:

- Attend 5-6 planning sessions in New London with HIC project leaders
- Identify priorities for community engagement regarding culture and logistics
- Assist the HIC to understand the best ways to share data back out to the community.
- Assist the HIC to identify community organizations and providers to include in the collaborative
- Work with HIC members to create an interview guide that helps us understand barriers to participation in the HIC for local residents
- Conduct interviews with some members of your community
- Use the findings and existing community health data to form the community engagement strategy with HIC leaders

A Community Ambassador...

- lives in and is connected to other residents of the one towns represented in the HIC (Old Lyme, Lyme, East Lyme, Waterford, New London, Groton, Ledyard, Stonington and North Stonington)
- is a natural leader in the community but does not have formal power within any large health focused institutions
- has experienced the negative impacts of health disparities themselves or is connected to others who are directly impacted by these systems
- is willing to talk to fellow community members about issues related to health and share findings within the group
- is willing to have open and honest dialogue with HIC members about challenges and opportunities in addressing racism as a public health issue.

Bilingual residents speaking both English and Spanish or Haitian Creole are strongly encouraged to participate.

Logistics

Ambassadors will be temporary employees of Ledge Light Health District and compensated \$25/hr for their time on the project. Planning sessions will likely be held in New London. Dates and times will be determined by the cohort and we hope to be as flexible as possible to accommodate everyone's schedule. Ambassadors will be expected to meet in person and work independently outside of the Ledge Light Health District Office.

Unfortunately our grant funds do not cover childcare or transportation, but please let us know if these are barriers to your participation and we will do our best to make accommodations on a case by case basis.

How to apply:

Please email freshnewlondon@gmail.com with a brief description about yourself and why you are interested in being a Community Ambassador. Please include the town where you live and any experience you have with community organizations or other local groups. Tell us if you have experience with outreach or community organizing and why you are interested in health equity in your community.