



NYSPHC Alumni Directory

Cohorts 1.0 & 2.0



The Alumni Directory is an index of former NYSPHC Fellows listed by primary focus areas.

The NYSPHC Alumni Directory is a networking tool for past and current NYSPHC Fellows. Fellows are encouraged to use this directory to expand their professional networks and build community.

The directory is updated on an as-needed basis when Alumni submit their profiles to the program.

NYSPHC Alumni

Communications

Andrea Mott

Megan Polhamus

Hilary Wilton

Emergency Preparedness

Epidemiology and Data

Judy George

Schuyler C. Lawson

Ashley Lewis

Meghan Sheridan

Laboratory Reporting

Jessica Hidalgo

Daniel Kanevsky

Partnership Development

Elisabeth Parker

Policy Development

Program and Organizational Management

Christina Bridge

Khrystin Comerford

Shani Fields

Emily Haigh

Ashley Heacock

Talia Laster

Zofika (Zoe) Lincoln

Karin Schlereth

Elizabeth Urbanski-Farrell

Megan Vadala

Kevin Wang

Other

Furahini Bahati

Mariana Barrancos

Andrea Blowers

Angelica Burgos-Nieves

Brandin Cousineau

Alexandra Dubuisson

Nicole Franz

Teona Giorgadze

Hex Kleinmartin

Molly Lawrence

Hassan Masroor

Monika Narang

Bethany Patterson

Kabulete B. Pierre

Hailey Quintavalle

Hillary S. Rabel

Sarah Robinson

Marissa Sogluizzo

Siobhan Stone

Anika Tahsin

Catherine J. Traino

Brynn Watkins

Samantha Rose Watson

Jillian Weiner

Andee Wik

Mathew Yonks




ANDREA MOTT

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

Finger Lakes (Region 2)

CONTACT

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413bb4249](https://www.linkedin.com/in/andrea-mott-413bb4249)

CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Public Health
Specialist

**Organization: Livingston
County Department of Health**

Organization Type:
Government (Local)

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Communications



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Chronic disease
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- Health equity
- General
- Maternal, infant, and family health
- Reaccreditation

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

I was brand new to Public Health when I applied to the NYSPHC Fellowship. All of the skills I have are thanks to the support of the Fellowship program and my local health department.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

Yes! The NYSPHC Fellowship is the perfect opportunity to grow as a professional and find your niche in Public Health.



MEGAN POLHAMUS

MADISON COUNTY

Central (Region 3)



CONTACT

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linkedin.com/in/megan-polhamus

CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Health Educator

Organization: Madison County Public Health

Organization Type:
Government (local)

CURRENT EDUCATION

Master of Public Health

University at Albany

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Communications

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Chronic disease
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- Nutrition and food security
- Oral health
- Public health infrastructure development

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

My NYSPHC experience gave me opportunities to work on a wide range of projects to learn my strengths and areas I can work on. I worked closely with a Health Educator on public health messaging and partnership building, which further confirmed this is the work I want to continue doing.

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

I helped the department in pursuing Accreditation status and worked collaboratively on the Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan (CHA/CHIP). These were great opportunities to become integrated into the health department and wider community. I liked being a helping hand wherever I could!




HILARY WILTON


OSWEGO COUNTY

Central (Region 3)

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 (315) 435-2362 ext. 4942

CURRENT ROLE

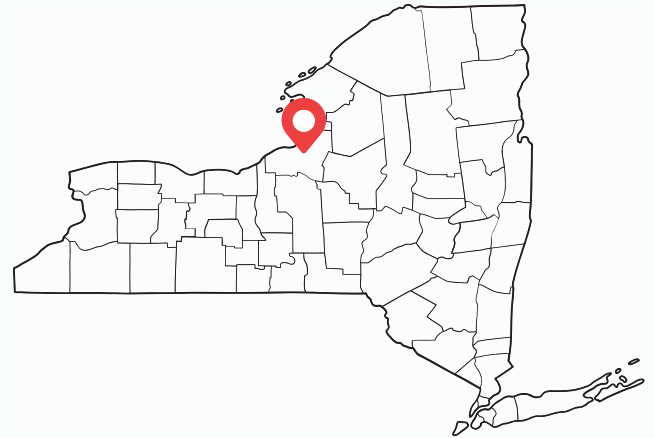
Job Title: Public Information Specialist

Organization: Onondaga County

Organization Type:
Government (local)

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Communications



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- General

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

Increased partnerships with fellow organizations through the Oswego County Trauma Informed Collaborative and through creating and organizing events for National Public Health Week (NPHW). NPHW events increased public engagement and awareness of health department programs and services while providing opportunities to further educate the public on public health topics. Also created an ongoing online portal for community feedback and assisted with the Community Health Assessment Survey.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

Yes, a great beginner program that allows those just starting in the public health space to connect with potential mentors and fellow public health workers.




JUDY GEORGE

SUFFOLK COUNTY

Long Island (Region 7)

CONTACT

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 [linkedin.com/company/my-network-discovery-see-all?usecase=PEOPLE_FOLLOWS&followMember=judy-george-70a73052](https://www.linkedin.com/company/my-network-discovery-see-all?usecase=PEOPLE_FOLLOWS&followMember=judy-george-70a73052)

CURRENT ROLE

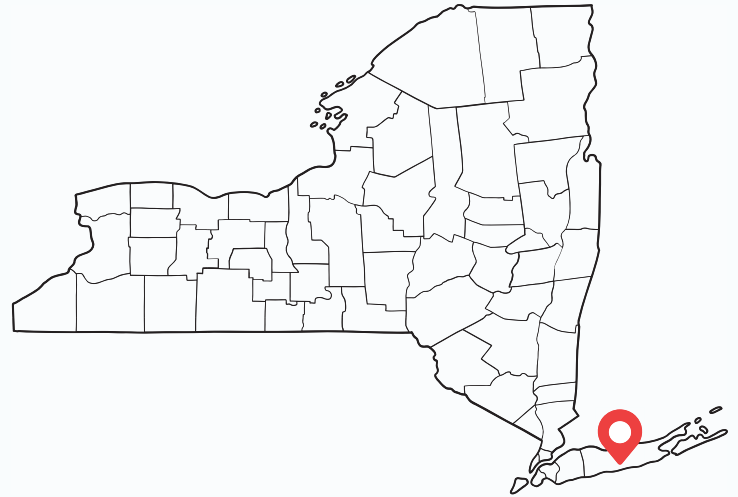
Job Title: Public Health Field Services Representative

Organization: NYSDOH

Organization Type:
Government (State)

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Epidemiology and Data



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Communicable disease

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

Opened my eyes to the world of public health.

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

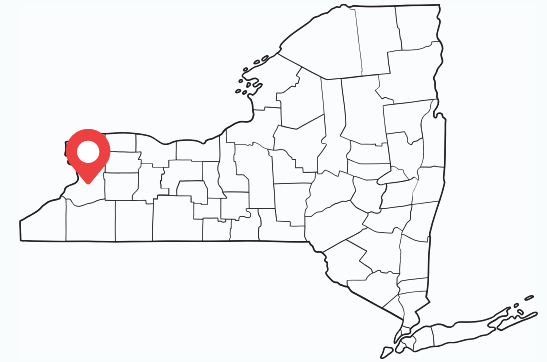
I learned so much about immunizations which has continued to peek my interest.



SCHUYLER C. LAWSON


ERIE COUNTY


Western (Region 1)



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 (716) 262-7115

CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Research Associate

**Organization: Syracuse University,
Burton Blatt Institute**

Organization Type: Higher Education
or Research Institution

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Epidemiology and Data

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Health equity
- Substance use
- General
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

One of the biggest highlights from my Fellowship experience was being able to author a government report on Winter Preparedness in Erie County. I was fully responsible for analyzing, writing, and reporting the data using tools, such as Stata, Canva, and Excel.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

Yes, I would strongly recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others even though my tenure ended earlier than expected. The NYSPHC Fellowship is a great opportunity to learn while being paid a decent wage. It is one of the best professional development programs that I've participated in since I had so many rich experiences, such as attending conferences, networking, and working in a government office as an epidemiologist.



ASHLEY LEWIS

TOMPKINS COUNTY

Southern Tier (Region 3)

CONTACT

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(919) 537-1464

CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Epidemiologist

Organization: Rural Health Institute of New York

Organization Type: Non-profit

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Epidemiology and Data



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- Public health infrastructure development
- Housing security
- Substance use

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

Yes, wonderful program for recent grads especially.



MEGHAN SHERIDAN

GENESEE COUNTY

Western (Region 1)

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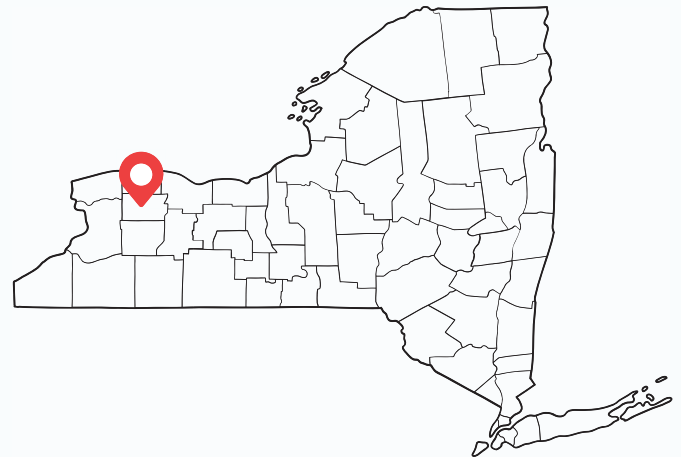
CURRENT EDUCATION

Epidemiology MS

University of Rochester
Medical Center

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Epidemiology and Data



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Maternal, infant, and family health
- General
- Child and school health
- Substance use
- Violence and injury prevention

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

My fellowship helped me find my path to my grad program. I felt well prepared to enter it and apply my knowledge.

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

I gained a lot of confidence through my role. I learned how to function in the work place. I feel prepared to attend graduate school and for a career post grad.



JESSICA HIDALGO

ERIE COUNTY

Western (Region 1)

CONTACT

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📞 (716) 580-0886

CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Microbiologist

**Organization: Erie County
Water Authority**

Organization Type:
Government (local)

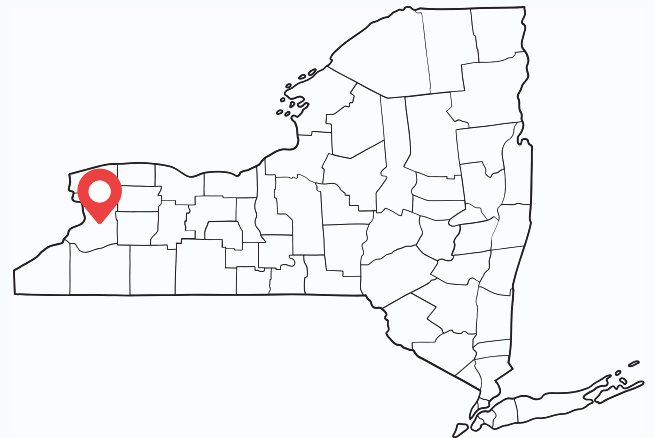
CURRENT EDUCATION

Masters in Biology

Eastern Illinois University

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Laboratory Reporting



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Environmental health

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

I learned about government reporting, environmental regulations and emergency operations.



DANIEL KANEVSKY

ROCKLAND COUNTY

Mid-Hudson (Region 7)

CONTACT

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CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Public Health
Technician I

Organization: Rockland DOH

Organization Type:
Government (Local)

CURRENT EDUCATION

Master of Public Health

**Eastern Washington
University**

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Laboratory Reporting



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Communicable disease
- Environmental health
- General

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

It helped me network and get the job I currently have.

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

I helped with contact tracing for over 400 cases over the course of the year.



ELISABETH PARKER

ERIE COUNTY

Western (Region 1)

CONTACT

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CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Licensed Master
Social Worker

**Organization: Ovarian Cancer
Project**

Organization Type: Non-Profit/NGO

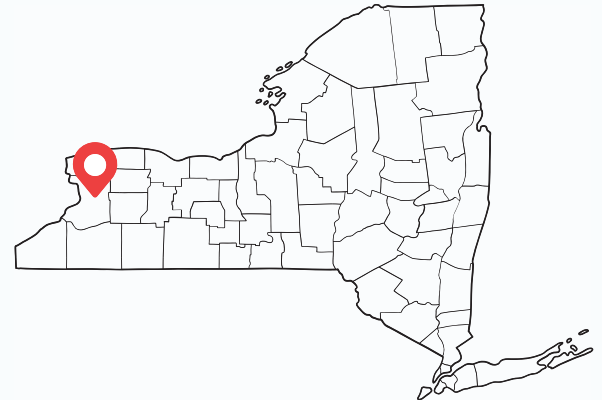
CURRENT EDUCATION

Masters in Higher Education

Arizona State University

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Partnership Development



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Child and school health
- Chronic disease
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- Substance use

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

As a NYSPHC Fellow, I was introduced to the Non-profit, Healthcare community in Buffalo. As well, the Cornell Public Health Essentials Program was excellent.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

Yes. Collaboration and the Public Health Essentials Program.



CHRISTINA BRIDGE

FULTON COUNTY

Mohawk Valley (Region 4)

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[utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=ios_app](https://www.linkedin.com/in/christina-b-b785521a0?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=ios_app)

(518) 419-3024

CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Public Health Specialist (Environment)

Organization: NYS
Department of Health

Organization Type:
Government (State)

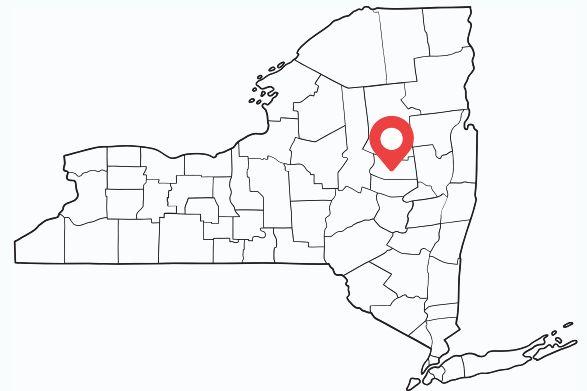
CURRENT EDUCATION

Doctor of Public Health

UAlbany

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Program and Organizational Management



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Child and school health
- Community health assessments/community improvement plans
- Environmental health

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

My experience with NYSPHC guided my fundamental public health knowledge in order to successfully implement a state level program, including data analysis, program management, stakeholder engagement, and more.

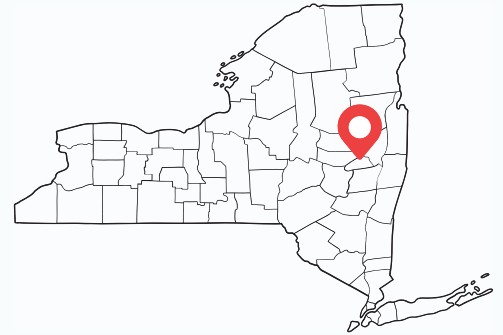
Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

During my fellowship at Fulton County Public Health, I created an "Employee Walking Guide" which maps out short 6-7 minute walking routes that individuals can utilize during breaks or lunch to encourage more physical activity.



KHRYSTIN COMERFORD

SCHENECTADY COUNTY
Capital (Region 5)



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CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Public Health
Education Coordinator

Organization:
Schenectady County
Public Health Services

Organization Type:
Government (local)

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Program and Organizational
Management

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Communicable disease
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- General
- Health equity
- Health literacy
- Housing security
- STIs/HIV
- Substance use
- Chronic disease
- Nutrition and food security

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

I was placed in the current LHD I work in now. I was able to learn so much and develop professionally throughout the time I spent in the fellowship. I learned parts of Public Health work that I never thought I'd be interested in, but have come to absolutely enjoy! With this fellowship, I was absolutely able to become more confident in my skills as a public health professional. Additionally, I had the ability to learn a lot of new things that I wouldn't have had access to in a different type of job environment.




SHANI FIELDS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NYS Department of Health (Region 8)

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CURRENT ROLE

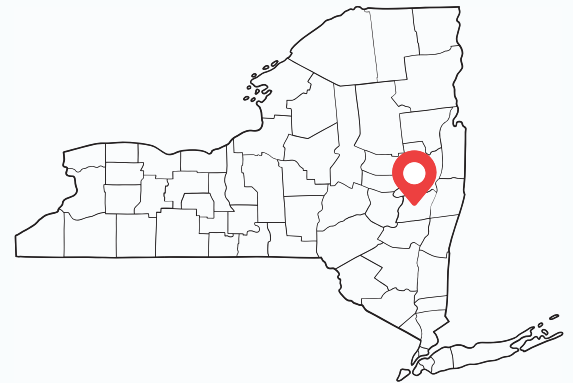
Job Title: Health Program Coordinator

Organization: NYSDOH

Organization Type:
Government (state)

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Program and Organizational Management



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Chronic disease
- Health equity
- Maternal, infant, and family health
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

The NYSPHC Fellowship Program was an amazing experience. I worked in foster care and reproductive healthcare previously. The Fellowship illustrated how my work in those fields merged perfectly with my work in public health. It enhanced my community engagement experience. It awakened my passion for improved maternal health outcomes for the women in our state with the highest risk.

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

The highlight of my experience was meeting and engaging with so many people from various backgrounds, coming together with a goal of providing the highest quality healthcare for all people.



EMILY HAIGH

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Capital (Region 5)



CONTACT

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-haigh-ab6391241

CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Public Health
Educator

**Organization: Columbia County
Department of Health**

Organization Type:
Government (local)

CURRENT EDUCATION

Master's in Epidemiology

University at Albany

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Program and Organizational
Management

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Chronic disease
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- Nutrition and food security
- Oral health
- Substance use
- Health literacy
- Communicable disease
- Child and school health

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

It allowed me to gain great job experience in many areas of public health. It also helped me find my area of interest and helped me to look into a master's degree in public health.

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

It was a great way to network, the fellowship symposiums were always fun to join in on.




ASHLEY HEACOCK


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NYS Department of Health (Region 8)

CONTACT

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 (973) 908-3016

CURRENT EDUCATION

MPH in Health Policy and Management

Columbia Mailman School of Public Health

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Program and Organizational Management



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Communicable disease
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- Health equity
- Public health infrastructure development
- STIs/HIV

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

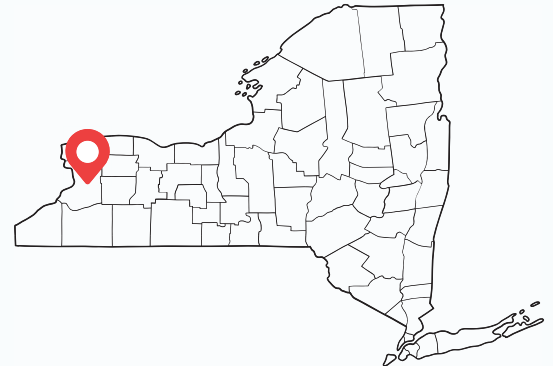
The experience I received working with BHSFS was extremely valuable, real life HIV/STI data, working with patients, understanding a department of health role/view, and networking with other fellows.



TALIA LASTER

ERIE COUNTY

Western (Region 1)



CONTACT

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CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Administrative Clerk

Organization: Back to Basics Ministries

Organization Type: Non-Profit/NGO

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Program and Organizational Management

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Violence and injury prevention

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

Building relationships and creating equity in diverse groups.

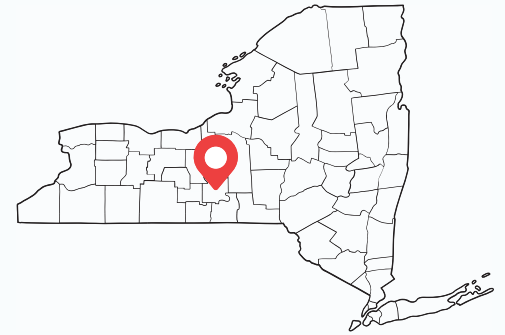
Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

Meeting other diverse groups and building relationships and learning a new way of how other groups of people do things.




ZOFIKA (ZOE) LINCOLN

TOMPKINS COUNTY
Southern Tier (Region 3)



CONTACT

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 www.linkedin.com/in/zofikalincoln

CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Whole Health Planner

**Organization: Tompkins County
Whole Health**

Organization Type:
Government (local)

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Program and Organizational
Management

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Chronic disease
- General
- Health literacy
- Public health infrastructure development
- Substance use
- Suicide Prevention

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

My current position was developed based on the work I did/professional relationships I formed here as a fellow!

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

In my previous role with Whole Health as a graduate fellow, I got the chance to play a key role in initiating suicide prevention and overdose prevention efforts in my county. As a key facilitator of the Opioid Task Force, I helped structure the allocation of over \$700K in Opioid Settlement Funds to initiate and strengthen community programs and partnerships. Additionally, I developed and initiated a data initiative to systematically track suicide and overdose trends, providing critical insights to guide policy and intervention strategies locally.



KARIN SCHLERETH

SUFFOLK COUNTY

Long Island (Region 7)

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CURRENT ROLE

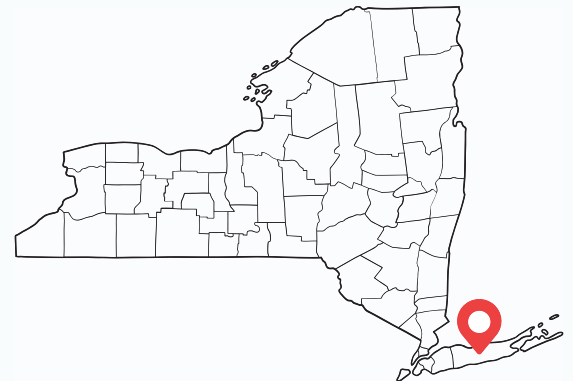
Job Title: Program Manager

Organization: Northwell

Organization Type: Healthcare

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Program and Organizational Management



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Health equity

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

My fellowship included the certificate program with Cornell University's Public Health Essentials (PHE) which reinforced the core concepts in project planning, evaluation, and program implementation, all of which are essential for my job as a Northwell program manager.

Through my project with the Suffolk County STI unit and working closely with their director, Mary Pat Boyle, I gained practical experience in addressing a public health priority (raising awareness about CS). This is highly relevant my programs at Northwell. I'm deeply involved in community health initiatives to reduce overdoses, increase supports for substance users and their families. I found that as a program manager with a public health background I can better understand and contribute to efforts focused on patient outcomes, prevention, and community outreach.

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

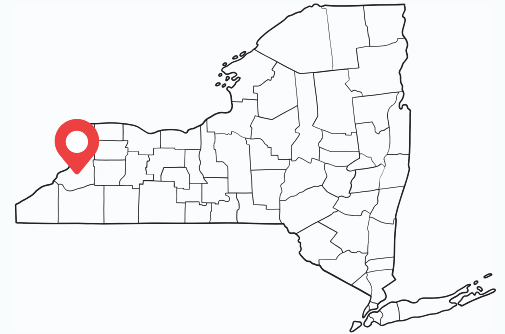
A highlight from my fellowship was participating in the statewide Congenital Syphilis Elimination Strategic Planning Group.



ELIZABETH URBANSKI-FARRELL


ERIE COUNTY


Western (Region 1)



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CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Health and Social Care Strategic Consultant

Organization: Self-employed

Organization Type: Serves non-profits, hospitals, healthcare clinics (FQHCs), and government (local health departments)

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Program and Organization Management

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Public health infrastructure development
- Chronic disease
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- Grant writing and data analysis, published reports, and stakeholder communications and management
- Oral Health
- Maternal, infant, and family health
- Nutrition and food security
- COVID-19
- Health literacy
- Health equity

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

The NYS Public Health Corps Fellowship program expanded my public health knowledge and connections through education and direct experience in collaboratively designing and building public health programs with stakeholders in the community, nonprofits and government agencies; public health data collection and research; grant application design and program management.



MEGAN VADALA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: SYRACUSE
Central (Region 3)

CONTACT

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CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Housing Program Manger

Organization: ACR Health

Organization Type: Non-Profit/NGO

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Program Management and Administration



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Chronic disease
- Substance use

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

The information I learned from the Harm Reduction Unit in the Office of Drug User Health has assisted me with skills and knowledge when working with clients in active use and post active use.




KEVIN WANG

ERIE COUNTY

Western (Region 1)

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 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chen-hong-wang/>

CURRENT ROLE

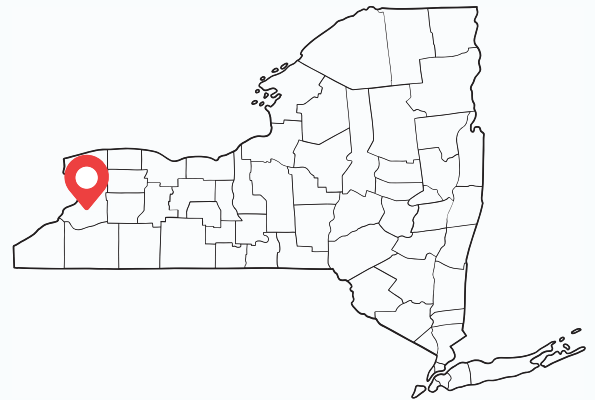
Job Title: Assistant Program Specialist

Organization: 1199SEIU Training & Employment Funds

Organization Type: Non-Profit

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Program and Organizational Management



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Communicable disease
- Health equity
- Health literacy
- Nutrition and food security

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

The NYSPHC Fellowship helped me gain hands-on experience with disciplines in health promotion, project management, and literature research.

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

Assisted with the planning, implementation, and evaluation of a community health literacy program. Curated multiple literature reviews to support health promotion projects.



FURAHINI BAHATI

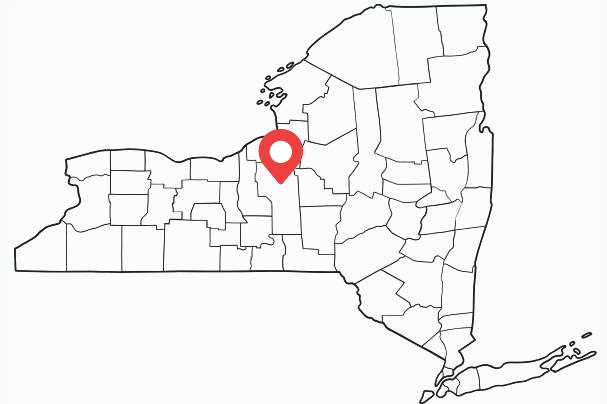
ONONDAGA COUNTY

Central (Region 3)

CONTACT

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📞 (315) 380-5896



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- COVID-19
- Environmental health
- Public health Infrastructure development

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

As a fellow, I was able to teach new refugees not only how to access community resources, make doctor appointments, and shop for food, but also the invaluable lesson of staying connected to the community and maintaining good hygiene.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

I recommend the fellowship program to others because it provides a valuable opportunity to work with individuals from diverse backgrounds.



MARIANA BARRANCOS

BROOME COUNTY
Southern Tier (Region 3)

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CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Public Health Sanitarian

Organization: Broome County Health Department

Organization Type:
Government (local)

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Rabies and Food programs



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Environmental health

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

I have translated most documents into Spanish for the food program.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

Yes, I would definitely recommend it. Mostly because of the ongoing continuous training opportunities.




ANDREA BLOWERS

HERKIMER COUNTY

Mohawk Valley (Region 4)

CONTACT

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in/andrea-blowers?
utm_source=share_via&
utm_content=profile&utm
_medium=member_ios](https://www.linkedin.com/in/andrea-blowers?utm_source=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=member_ios)

 (315) 867-1176

CURRENT ROLE

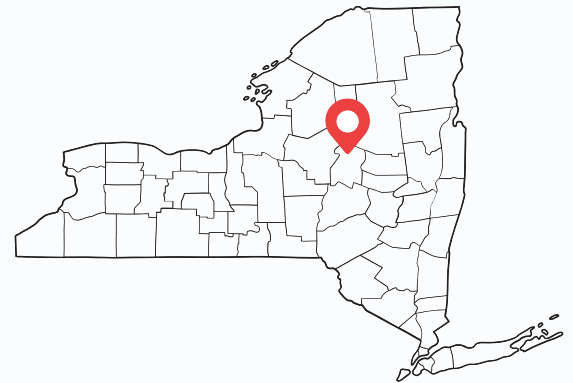
Job Title: Population
Health Specialist

**Organization: Herkimer
County Public Health**

Organization Type:
Government (local)

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Strategic Planning and Data



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- Health equity
- General
- Maternal, infant, and family health
- Public health infrastructure development

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

My NYSPHC fellowship directly shaped where I am now. It gave me hands-on experience in public health and helped me build relationships within the department. The skills I developed made it a natural transition into my current role as a Population Health Specialist.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

Yes, I would recommend NYSPHC fellowship to others. It's one of the few programs that helps you grow your skills, confidence, and professional networks in a short period of time.



ANGELICA BURGOS-NIEVES

ERIE COUNTY

Western (Region 1)

CONTACT

@ angelica.burgos-nieves@uwbec.org

CURRENT ROLE

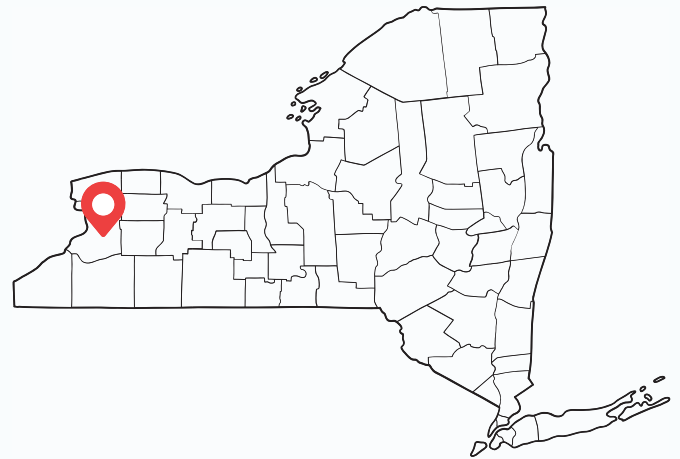
Job Title: Work/Life Solutions Resource Coordinator

Organization: United Way of Buffalo & Erie County

Organization Type: Non-profit/NGO

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Workforce Development



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Health equity
- Housing security
- Maternal, infant, and family health
- Substance use
- Workforce development

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

I was able to learn more about what Public Health is through the essentials course.



BRANDIN COUSINEAU

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

North Country (Region 4)

CONTACT

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📞 (315) 244-6581

CURRENT ROLE

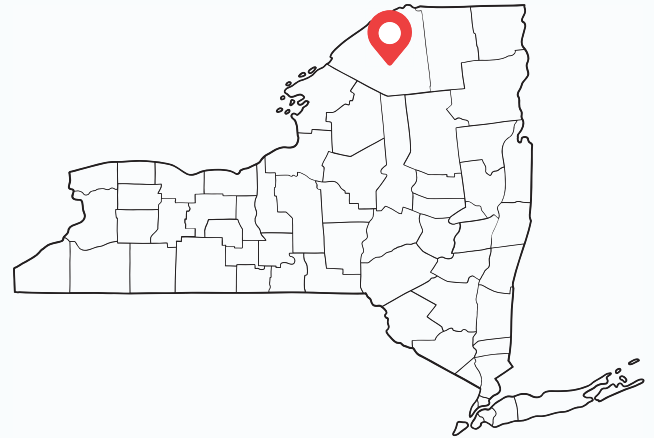
Job Title: Senior
Accountant Clerk

**Organization: St. Lawrence
County Public Health Department**

Organization Type:
Government (Local)

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Fiscal



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Strategic planning and budgeting
- Health equity
- Public health infrastructure development
- Workforce development
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

It was really cool to see myself being used as an example at the NACCHO conference this summer, highlighting the successes of the fellowship program.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others? Why or why not?

Yes it was very rewarding and has helped me discover public health as a career path even without a public health or nursing background.



ALEXANDRA DUBUISSON


ALBANY COUNTY


Capital (Region 5)



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 (404) 395-8867

CURRENT EDUCATION

Allopathic Medicine (MD)

Louisiana State University
Health Sciences Center -
School of Medicine

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Chronic disease
- Health equity
- Health literacy
- Maternal, infant, and family health
- Public health infrastructure development

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

It directly influenced my choice to pursue an MPH and shaped my current work as a medical student and researcher — from launching mentorship and community programs to designing protocols for proteomics research on reproductive health. The fellowship also expanded my professional network and taught me how to turn public-health evidence into actionable clinical and community interventions.

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

Since participating as a NYSPHC Fellow at the New York State Department of Health, I have been accepted into medical school and am now nearing the completion of my first year. This program equipped me with valuable skills and experiences that strengthened my medical school application and prepared me for the rigors of medical training. My time at the Department of Health significantly enhanced my efficiency, time management, and professionalism—skills that continue to benefit me in my medical career. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity and its lasting impact on my journey.



NICOLE FRANZ

ERIE COUNTY

Western (Region 1)

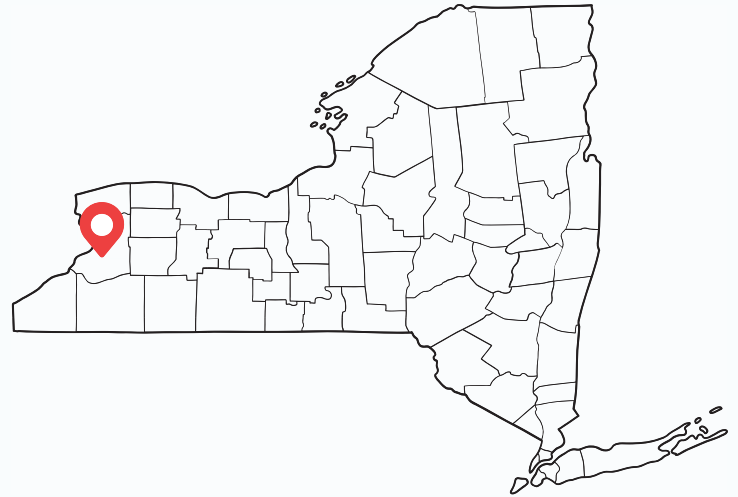
CONTACT

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📞 (480) 406-7079

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Workers Compensation



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- General
- Health literacy
- Oral health

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

It really opened my eyes to the way CBOs worked and the need of resources to keep going. Learning about public health was an eye opener as well. It challenged some of my thoughts and made me think of things in a way I had not before.



TEONA GIORGADZE


ONONDAGA COUNTY

Central (Region 3)



CONTACT

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 www.linkedin.com/in/teona-giorgadze

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Chronic disease
- Communicable disease
- community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- General
- STIs/HIV

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

One of the highlights of my Fellowship experience was working with an incredible team. I truly valued how supportive everyone was and how they encouraged my determination and passion for public health. The leadership and staff involved me in several projects, which gave me an excellent opportunity to expand my knowledge and gain hands-on experience. Seeing a team recognize and nurture talent was very inspiring.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

I would definitely recommend the Fellowship. For recent graduates, it's a great opportunity to gain hands-on experience and build a network with public health professionals.




HEX KLEINMARTIN


ERIE COUNTY

Western (Region 1)

CONTACT

@ hex@literacybuffalo.org

 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/hex-kleinmartin-567b47116/>

 (716) 876-8991

CURRENT ROLE

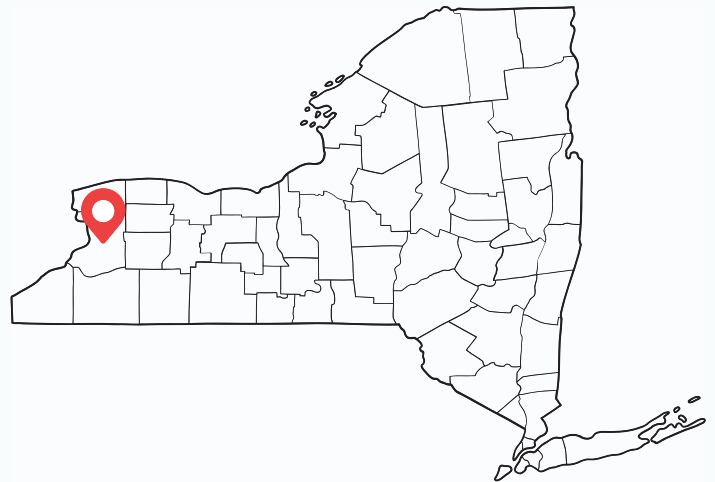
Job Title: Program Director

Organization: Literacy Buffalo Niagara

Organization Type: Non-profit/NGO

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Education



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Health literacy
- Digital literacy

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

My experience was able to help me better identify and target the needs within my local community.

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

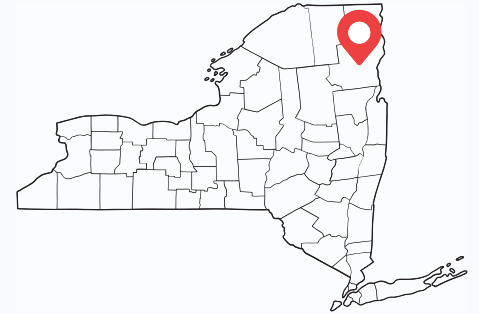
The positive outcomes that I was able to demonstrate during my fellowship time have allowed my placement organization (Literacy Buffalo Niagara) to convince their board to extend funding for me to work for them and institute a program based on my design.



MOLLY LAWRENCE

ESSEX COUNTY

North Country (Region 5)



CONTACT

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countyny.gov

📞 (518) 873-3502

CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Chronic Disease
Outreach Coordinator

**Organization: Essex County
Health Department**

Organization Type:
Government (local)

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Public Health Promotion,
outreach, program
development

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Chronic disease
- Public health infrastructure development
- Environmental health
- General
- Health equity
- Health literacy
- Nutrition and food security

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

It enhanced my knowledge of climate health and how to tie that to my local community; and increased my awareness of reliable data sources for public health assessment, planning, and reporting.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

Yes. It provides a good foundation from a reputable educational institution for enhancing basic public health knowledge, and necessary skills for being an effective public health worker. The program emphasizes networking and makes bridges between Fellows and public health institutions.



HASSAN MASROOR

ROCKLAND COUNTY

Mid-Hudson (Region 7)

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(913) 286-0233

CURRENT ROLE

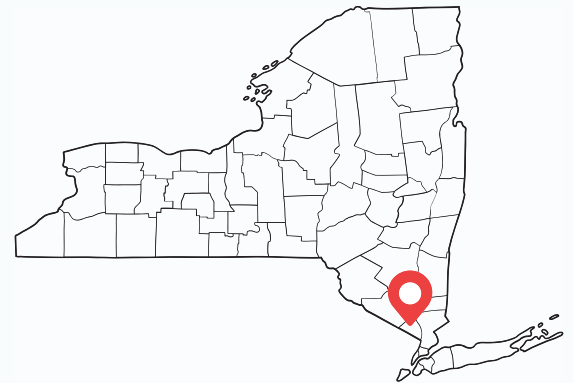
Job Title: Communicable Disease Coordinator

Organization: Rockland County DOH

Organization Type:
Government (local)

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Disease Control



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Chronic disease
- Communicable disease
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- Child and school health
- COVID-19
- General
- Health equity
- Health literacy
- Public health infrastructure development
- STIs/HIV
- Workforce development

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

The fellowship provided me with the opportunity to work at RCDOH which ultimately lead to me getting hired in my current role.



MONIKA NARANG

ONONDAGA COUNTY

Central (Region 3)

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(909) 437-6740

CURRENT ROLE

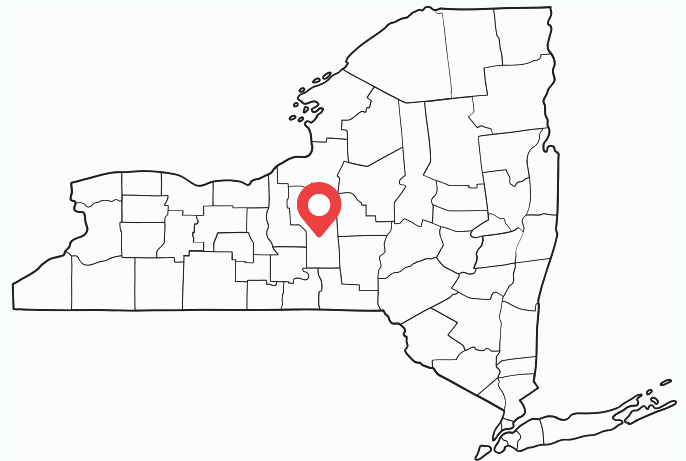
Job Title: Employment Manager

Organization: Community Options

Organization Type: Non-profit/NGO

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Supporting individuals with developmental disabilities in achieving and maintaining meaningful, integrated employment



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- Workforce development
- Public health and human services, job to development and coaching

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

It gave me the confidence to pursue my dream of coming into a Management Role.



BETHANY PATTERSON

ERIE COUNTY

Western (Region 1)

CONTACT

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(716) 778-4608

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Paralegal



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Elder Law
- Estate Planning
- Civil Litigation

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

I realized I want to go to law school.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others? Why or why not?

I would strongly encourage this fellowship opportunity to others. I found this experience to be very positive and it allowed me to try areas such as grant writing that I never had the opportunity to try before.



KABULETE B. PIERRE

ONONDAGA COUNTY *Central (Region 3)*



CONTACT

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📞 (315) 952-6464

CURRENT EDUCATION

Masters in Public Health

Syracuse University

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- Communicable disease
- Chronic disease
- Child and school health
- COVID-19
- Environmental health
- Health equity
- General
- Health literacy
- Maternal, infant, and family health
- Oral health
- STIs/HIV
- Violence and injury prevention
- Health Navigator

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

Based on the summit that was held December 2023 and the poster presentations, it gave me a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the importance of being one of the public health Fellows.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

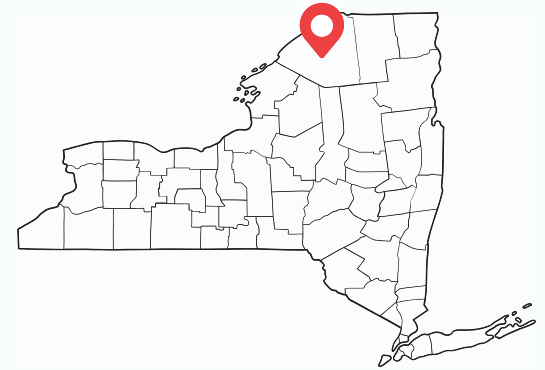
Yes. This is preventive medicine to our counties residents.



HAILEY QUINTAVALLE


ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

North Country (Region 4)



CONTACT

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 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/haileyquintavalle/>

CURRENT EDUCATION

Masters in Mental Health
Counseling

Russell Sage College

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

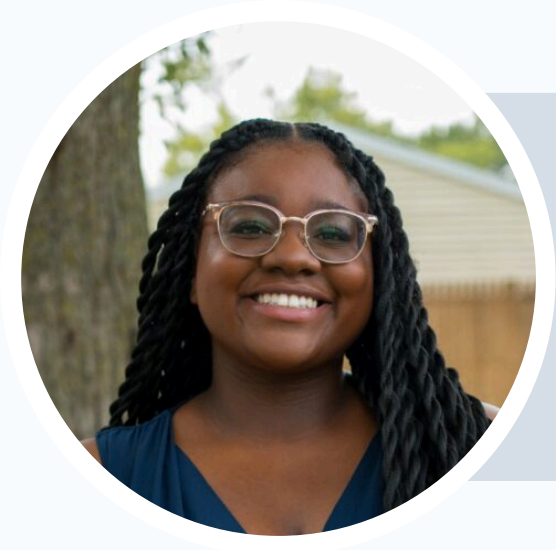
- General
- Oral health
- Nutrition and food security
- Violence and injury prevention
- Communicable disease

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

I gained many transferable skills that will apply to a range of future careers. Joining public health opened the door for many different avenues in the health field, many of which I had not been aware of before.

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

My position gave me the freedom to explore topics I was passionate about, like mental health in my community. I was able to participate in key events hosted by the county and was able to feel like I was making a real impact.



HILLARY S. RABEL

ONONDAGA COUNTY

Central (Region 3)



CONTACT

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linkedin.com/in/hillary-rabel-msph-282987168/

CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Community Impact Director – CNY Region

Organization: American Heart Association

Organization Type: Non-Profit/NGO

CURRENT EDUCATION

BADT Doula Training

Birth Advocacy Doula Training

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Policy, Systems, and Environmental changes

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Health equity
- Maternal, infant, and family health
- General
- Substance use
- Nutrition and food security

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

I developed a deep understanding of how public health systems operate, how data informs decision making, and how community driven interventions lead to sustainable change. Working in the maternal and child health division gave me practical experience engaging community members, facilitating listening sessions, conducting assessments, and implementing programs that addressed real health needs. The fellowship strengthened my commitment to health equity and exposed me to the importance of addressing barriers through policy, systems, and environmental strategies. I learned how to build partnerships, uplift community voices, and develop interventions that empower residents to advocate for themselves. The NYSPHC Fellowship also helped me build confidence as a public health practitioner. The training, mentorship, and hands on experience prepared me to step into a leadership position focused on improving population health through collaborative, community centered approaches.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

Yes, because the fellowship truly pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me discover my true passions while developing new ones. It taught me to think creatively, approach challenges with curiosity, and ensure that community voices remain at the center of public health. This experience shaped how I show up in my work today and reinforced my commitment to advancing community driven solutions.




SARAH ROBINSON


ERIE COUNTY

Western (Region 1)

CONTACT

@ robinsonsarah727@gmail.com

 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarah-robinson727/>

 (315) 264-5385

CURRENT ROLE

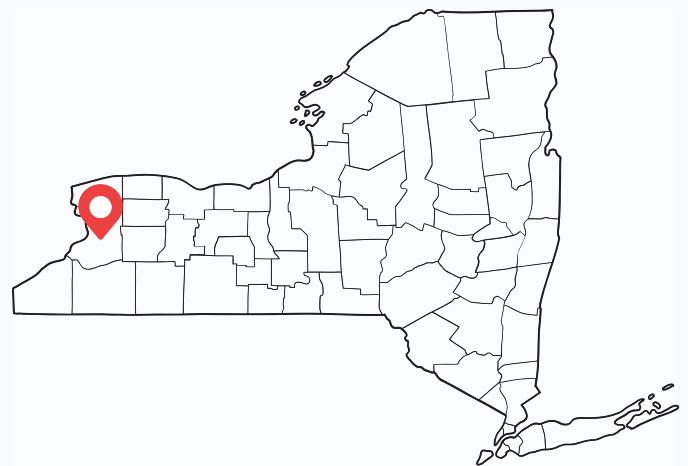
Job Title: Accreditation Specialist

Organization: Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)

Organization Type: Non-profit/NGO

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Accreditation



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- Health literacy
- Health equity
- Nutrition and food security
- Public health infrastructure development
- Workforce development

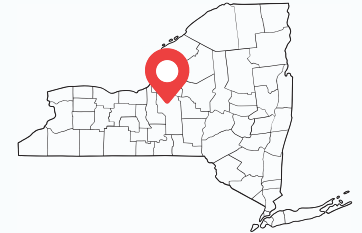
How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

It helped me build connections and experience to acquire my current job with the Council on Education for Public Health.



MARISSA SOGLUIZZO

ONONDAGA COUNTY
Central (Region 3)



CONTACT

@ marissa.sogluizzo@gmail.com

CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: PhD Student/
Graduate Teaching/Research
Assistant

**Organization: Stony Brook
University**

Organization Type: Higher Education
or Research Institution

CURRENT EDUCATION

PhD in Population Health

Stony Brook University

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Population Health

Preventative Medicine/
Community Health

Public Health Disaster
Preparedness

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Chronic disease
- Communicable disease
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- Environmental health
- Health equity
- Housing security
- Public health emergency preparedness
- Preventative medicine
- Disaster health

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

The NYSPHC Fellowship Program was my first position after completing my Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology and Disaster Science, Policy, and Practice. I worked with the New York State Department of Health in the Bureau of Community Environment Health and Food Protection. During this position, I had the opportunity to assist local health departments in food-borne, and occasionally waterborne, outbreak investigations and was responsible for reporting the details of such outbreaks to the CDC. I also worked closely with officials from the FDA, USDA, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). Such opportunities provided a lot of insight into how public health works at the federal and state governmental levels. This experience led to my desire for curating further research skills across a broad range of topics, leading to my current position as a PhD student in Population Health where I also work as a teaching assistant and research assistant.



SIOBHAN STONE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NYS Department of Health (Region 8)



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📞 (607) 426-2310

CURRENT EDUCATION

Registered Nursing

**Arnot Ogden Medical Center
School of Nursing**

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Communicable disease
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- Health equity
- Health literacy
- STIs/HIV
- Substance use

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

My time with the NYSPHC program was my first professional experience after finishing undergrad. It helped me gain a lot of professional skills and get real world experience on the things I learned in school. I realized that I wanted to be able to also help people hands-on at an individual level and decided to go to nursing school. I plan on becoming a public health nurse one day.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

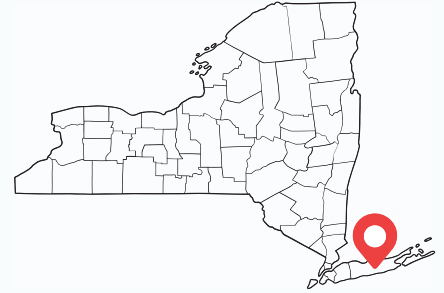
Yes I would because it was great entry-level experience and allowed for numerous networking opportunities. I gained skills through the work itself as well as the trainings and certifications we completed that I otherwise would not have had the opportunity to complete.



ANIKA TAHSIN

SUFFOLK COUNTY


Long Island (Region 7)



CONTACT

[https://www.linkedin.com/in/anikatahsin13?](https://www.linkedin.com/in/anikatahsin13?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=ios_app)

[utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=ios_app](https://www.linkedin.com/in/anikatahsin13?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=ios_app)

 (646) 717-7850

CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Health Inspector

Organization: Nassau County Health Department

Organization Type:
Government (local)

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Office of Food Protection

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Communicable disease
- COVID-19
- Environmental health
- Food safety, Food Borne Illness

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

My experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program provided valuable exposure to communicable disease investigations and data collection. I developed skills in surveillance, reporting, and applying public health protocols, which gave me a strong foundation in protecting community health. These experiences directly support my current role as a Food Inspector, where I apply the same principles of prevention, attention to detail, and regulatory compliance to ensure food safety.

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

During my fellowship, I assisted the communicable disease unit with case investigations and provided education and counseling on risk factors associated with pathogens such as Salmonella, Shigella, and Giardia. I also supported the department's COVID-19 response through vaccine promotion, managed 311 public inquiries to address community health concerns, and assisted with Hepatitis B case management programs. These experiences allowed me to contribute directly to protecting community health while developing strong skills in disease investigation, public communication, and case management.



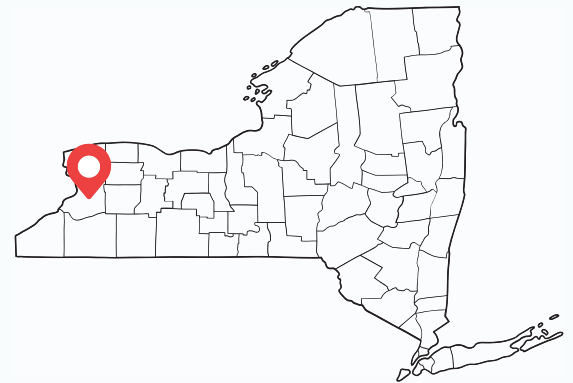
CATHERINE J. TRAINO

ERIE COUNTY

Western (Region 1)

CONTACT

@ cjtraino@roadrunner.com



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Chronic disease
- Child and school health
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- Health equity

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

The Fellowship program was a wonderful opportunity. I look forward to continuing my use of knowledge learned from the program and my colleagues.

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

I enjoyed the annual meetings because of the many ideas, creative programs bring shared and current knowledge of Public Health disciplines.



BRYNN WATKINS


SCHENECTADY COUNTY

Capital (Region 5)



CONTACT

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CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: NYSPHC Fellowship
Placement Specialist

Organization: HRI

Organization Type:
Government (State)

CURRENT EDUCATION

Master of Public Health

UAlbany

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Workforce development/
NYSPHC Staff

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Communicable disease
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- COVID-19
- Health equity
- Health literacy
- STIs/HIV
- Workforce development

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

One of the biggest highlights from my time in the fellowship was co-founding Capital Region Menstrual Health (CRMH), an initiative created to address period poverty, or the inability to afford menstrual products. Through a combination of product distribution and community education, we provided over 200,000 menstrual products to individuals in need and raised awareness about the importance of menstrual health and equity. We launched over nine Free Period Pantries across Albany, Schenectady, and Troy. These 24/7 outdoor pantries were stocked with a variety of menstrual hygiene products and placed in high-need areas to ensure that products were available to those who needed them most.

I am happy to say that these period pantries are still in operation, even though our fellowship term has come to an end. A wonderful organization called the MoonCatcher project graciously offered to take over the project, and they are still going strong. Check out their work here: <https://www.mooncatcher.org/>




SAMANTHA ROSE WATSON


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NYS Department of Health (Region 8)



CONTACT

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 (917) 864-7249

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Program and Organizational Management

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Child and school health
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- COVID-19
- Health equity
- Health literacy
- Maternal, infant, and family health
- STIs/HIV
- Substance use
- Violence and injury prevention
- Workforce development
- Public health infrastructure development
- General

How did your experience with the NYSPHC Fellowship Program shape your current job or education status?

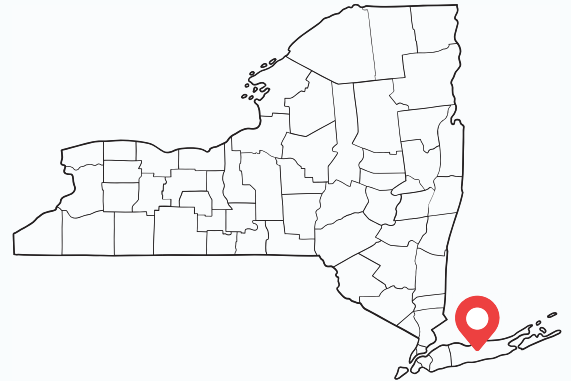
During the NYSPHC Fellowship I had hands-on experience designing and implementing community health interventions, which taught me how to translate public-health data into practical program decisions. I built skills in stakeholder engagement, grant/contract oversight, and performance measurement — for example, I led cross-agency meetings, prepared program deliverables, and used evaluation data to refine workflows. That experience was directly transferable to my current work in public-health administration: I now manage contracts, coordinate multi-partner initiatives, and apply evidence-based strategies to improve program outcomes. The fellowship also connected me with mentors and peers whose guidance helped me choose graduate coursework that deepened my policy and management expertise.



JILLIAN WEINER

SUFFOLK COUNTY

Long Island (Region 7)



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CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Psychiatric
Social Worker

**Organization: Suffolk County
Department of Health
Services**

Organization Type:
Government (local)

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Mental Hygiene

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Child and school health

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

Going to Albany for the Summit.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

Yes. It led me to my current employment and helped me make connections and gained relationships through networking .




ANDEE WIK

NIAGARA COUNTY

Western (Region 1)

CONTACT

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 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/andee-wik/>

CURRENT ROLE

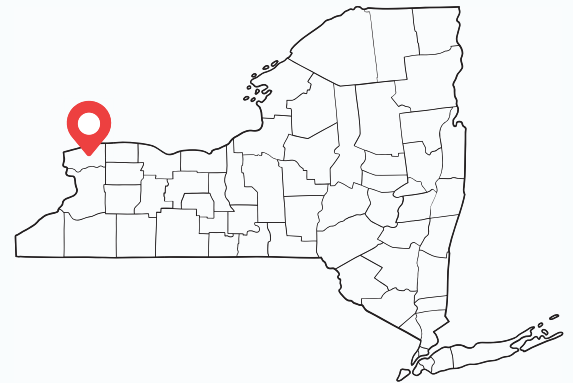
Job Title: Program Coordinator

Organization: University at Buffalo

Organization Type: Higher Education
or Research Institution

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Administration



AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Child and school health
- Health literacy
- Maternal, infant, and family health
- Oral health
- Workforce development

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

I learned a lot about local government and how to deal with people who may set you back. I went to many conferences and continued my education in many sectors of public health, not just what I learned in and focused on in graduate school. I gained communication and planning skills and completed a research abstract for the first time.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

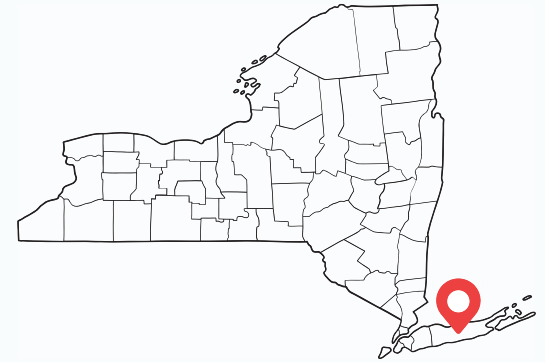
Yes, it was a great way to get my foot in the door and begin my public health career right out of graduate school.



MATHEW YONKS


SUFFOLK COUNTY


Long Island (Region 7)



CONTACT

@ mayonks0399@yahoo.com

 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mathewyonks/>

 (631) 356-4454

CURRENT ROLE

Job Title: Registered Nurse

Organization: Northwell Health

Organization Type: Healthcare

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Nursing

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

- Child and school health
- Communicable disease
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans
- COVID-19
- Health literacy
- Public health infrastructure development

Please share any highlights or success stories from your Fellowship experience.

Conducted a novel study of a mosquito species and its effects on public health.

Would you recommend the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to others?

Yes, it is a great stepping stone!