



# project **health** boston

"The world is calling; heal the world and in the process heal yourself, find the human in yourself by finding the citizen, the activist, the hero."

– Tony Kushner

**Boston Summer Fellows Program**

Summer 2010

## **i. about project health**

Project HEALTH is a non-profit that mobilizes the nation's undergraduates to provide high-impact services to low-income families and, in the process, to transform our healthcare system into one that is more effective and more just. To learn more about our work, our vision, and more, visit [www.projecthealth.org](http://www.projecthealth.org).

Project HEALTH believes that undergraduates have what it takes to make real change – for individual families and for our country's healthcare system. We are always seeking passionate, committed, social justice-minded students to join our movement.

## **ii. ph in boston**

Project HEALTH was founded in Boston in 1996 by a team of 10 undergraduate volunteers. We now work with over 90 students from Harvard and Boston Universities during the academic year and students from additional schools during the summer.

Project HEALTH volunteers staff clinic-based programs that assist families in accessing resources to meet the non-medical needs – food, housing, child care, clothing, job training, and more – that impact their children's health. Volunteers collaborate with physicians, social workers, and other providers in their clinics to screen families for these needs, then help families identify appropriate services. They then continue to follow up with families by phone to provide additional information, troubleshoot any barriers families encounter in obtaining services, and ensure that the need is successfully resolved. Their services are preventative in nature, aiming to help families avert crises and achieve increased stability, income, and education, which have been documented to result in better long-term health outcomes for their children.

We currently run programs in Boston Medical Center's pediatric outpatient clinic, pediatric Emergency Department, ob/gyn clinic, and newborn nursery, as well as a pilot program at Upham's Corner Health Center.

### **... what students say about the Summer Fellows Program ...**

"[Summer Fellows] was an amazing experience for me. I now understand even more that we have many, many problems with our healthcare system. I learned so much from the guest speakers, the staff at PH, and my fellow volunteers. It is amazing to work with a group of like-minded people and work together to achieve the same goals!"

"Project HEALTH has really given me a way to live my values everyday. Before Project HEALTH, I would say that I felt that everyone had the right to a home, food, clothing, and to live without toxic amounts of stress. Now I can honestly demonstrate that I help to make sure that the psychosocial needs of the clients I see are improved upon. Even on the most frustrating of days doing this work, it is uplifting to know that the work Project HEALTH does, and I do, makes a difference."

"This program taught me how to engage and empower leaders from the community for their assistance with the program as well as empower my day to day clients. Summer Policy Institute offered me engaging speakers who communicated the complexities of our society and who empowered me to demand more from myself, my peers, my resources, and my government. I developed sound judgment, in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team."

### iii. summer fellows program

Summer is a unique time of the year at Project HEALTH, when a small community of committed students, living together in housing provided by Harvard, work to realize their most ambitious goals for Project HEALTH's impact in Boston and nationally. The summer session is Project HEALTH's laboratory for new ideas – about the programs, about the organization, and about what as a community of people committed to social change can achieve together.

#### What will we do?

Summer Fellows participate in activities in three core areas, putting in a total of 30 hours each week:

- Programs. Summer Fellows, like volunteers during the academic year, commit to conscientious, client-centered work on shift and in follow-up, as well as participation in all reflection and training sessions. In addition, Fellows have the opportunity during the summer to truly transform the programs – to try out bold ideas, establish new systems, and deepen connections with families and clinical partners – and build momentum for the fall semester. Each Fellow commits to 15 hours each week for shift and follow-up and two hours per week for program reflection sessions.
- Working Groups. Fellows will also participate in a variety of working groups. Some of these groups will involve working with BMC faculty and staff on research or program development projects. Others will work with Project HEALTH staff at either the Boston site or the National office on shaping and incubating cutting-edge initiatives for the Project HEALTH network.

Working group projects for this year will be defined before the summer session begins (and we're open to suggestions from you!), and Fellows will be able to rank their preferences among the available projects. Because working group projects vary in scope and duration, there could also be opportunities for Fellows to propose additional projects as the summer progresses, and your ideas and insights will be critical at every turn. Fellows spend 10 hours each week on their working group projects (schedules will vary according to the project, but will be consistent week to week once established).

- Summer Policy Institute & Community Dinners. In order to foster a spirit of continued learning and strong community, Fellows come together one evening each week to share a meal and explore their own roles and potential as individuals who are passionate about making social change. Each session consists of an intimate seminar with a guest speaker on an issue of health and poverty, followed by a community dinner with the group of Fellows, who decide together how they would like to use that time (3 hours in total).

#### When does it happen?

Project HEALTH's Summer Fellows program corresponds to the dates of Harvard's summer housing. Fellows move in on **Friday, June 11** and move out on **Friday, August 6**.

#### Who's eligible?

You are eligible to apply for the Project HEALTH Summer Fellows program if you:

- Are currently enrolled as an undergraduate at Harvard (graduating seniors may apply).
- Can commit to fulfilling all the responsibilities outlined above, amounting to a total of 30 hours per week. Note that if you decide to take on a part-time job in addition to your work with PH (which many Summer Fellows do), you must schedule your work around your PH commitments. If you have already committed to another part-time summer job, please consult with Monica ([msawhney@projecthealth.org](mailto:msawhney@projecthealth.org)) *before* applying.

#### **iv. how to apply!**

Applications are due by **Sunday, 2/28 at 5 pm** and must be submitted via our online application system.

To request a link to the online application system, email Monica at [msawhney@projecthealth.org](mailto:msawhney@projecthealth.org), with "Summer Application" in the subject line and your first and last name in the email body. She will send you a link to the system. Note that this link will be unique to your email address – do NOT forward it to anyone else, or their answers could overwrite yours!

#### **v. questions?**

Email Monica at [msawhney@projecthealth.org](mailto:msawhney@projecthealth.org) with any questions about the Summer Fellows Program.

**Thanks for your interest in PH. We look forward to working with you!**