

National Mentorship Program in Applied Chronic Disease Epidemiology

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INTRODUCTION

The *National Mentorship Program in Applied Chronic Disease Epidemiology (Mentoring Program)* was established by the CDC and NACDD to partially address the shortage of technical expertise and capacity in applied chronic disease epidemiology among state, local, and territorial health departments. The Mentoring Program is one component of a number of efforts coordinated through the CDC's Division of Population Health.

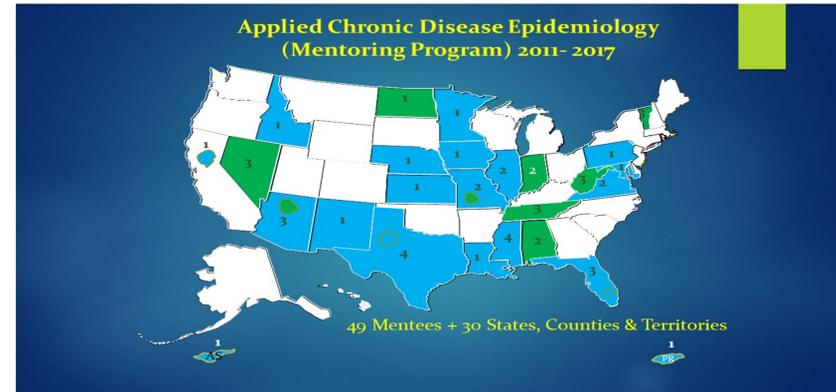
Epidemiology Mentoring Program Goals:

- Enlarge the pool of trained chronic disease epidemiologists at public health agencies;
- Improve the practice of chronic disease epidemiology; and
- Increase the epidemiological science in chronic disease programs and policies.

The National Mentorship Program offers up to 9-month mentorship opportunities for newly-hired or junior-level chronic disease epidemiologists who wish to be mentored in applied chronic disease epidemiology and develop capacity in one or more of seven, identified competency areas. The seven competencies are planning, analysis, communication, basic public health sciences, informatics and computer knowledge, cultural diversity and evaluation. Mentees must select a project that will serve as the focus of their mentorship.

Priority target audience for the National Mentorship Program is low-capacity states, especially those without a Senior Chronic Disease Epidemiologist.

The NACDD Epidemiology Mentoring Program Steering Committee and an NACDD Program Consultant work collaboratively to recruit participants (mentee and mentors), support mentor-mentor pairs, and manage program activities.



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

2017 cohort:

- Recruit participants through national call for interest
- Establish four (4) mentor-mentee pairs
- Administer mentor contracts and stipend payments
- Manage monthly mentee and mentor conference calls
- Submit conference abstract(s) and assist with final presentations
- Coordinate travel for the CSTE annual conference and mentor site visits
- Ensure participants complete mid-term and final program evaluation
- Provide general technical assistance

IMPACT

Selected and paired 49 newly-hired and junior-level chronic disease epidemiologists from 30 state, local, and territorial health departments with senior-level epidemiologists.

Many former mentees have been promoted to the position of Senior Chronic Disease Epidemiologists; two now serve as state and territory Chronic Disease Directors.

OUTLOOK

NACDD seeks to secure continued funding for future epidemiology mentoring cohorts. In the interim, NACDD will use evaluation results to refine the program model, complete a program journal article, and document mentee success stories.