PROGRAM PURPOSE:
The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) is a national public health non-profit agency focused on the health of the public by strengthening state and national leadership and expertise for chronic disease prevention and control. NACDD’s core membership is composed of the 58 State and Territorial Health Department Chronic Disease Directors and their staff who protect the health of the public through primary and secondary prevention efforts and work “upstream” on root causes of chronic conditions. NACDD promotes health and reduces the burden of chronic disease through various programs and initiatives. Among them is the Building Resilient and Inclusive Communities (BRIC) program being implemented across 20 states in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity and the Division of Population Health, and a team of nationally recognized experts.

To enhance public health resources across the country and support state and local public health settings respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Public Health AmeriCorps (PHA) program supports the recruitment, training, and development of the next generation of public health leaders. In partnership with a State Health Department or similar agency, local health department(s) or other community-based organization(s), and/or a local YMCA or YMCA State Alliance, Service Members will be placed across ten BRIC states to advance existing efforts around food and nutrition security, safe physical activity access, social connectedness, and health equity, all within the context of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

SPECIFIC SERVICE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
With support from the Illinois Public Health Institute, the PHA Service Member will work with BRIC partners in the St. Clair County, Illinois community to advance strategies related to nutrition security, physical activity, and the built environment. The Service Member will work with the Gateway Region YMCA and local collective impact coalitions, Healthier Together and Make Health Happen and MTC Community Outreach, to support and advance work at local food pantries, community gardens, community physical activity meetings and events, and an intergenerational arts program that promotes social connectedness. PHA Service Member will engage in:

- Supervising volunteer workdays in a school-based garden associated with a school in District 189 (East St. Louis)
- Staffing a school supported food pantry so that community members may drop in and receive food. Food pantry is associated with a school-based garden in District 187 (Cahokia School District).
- Updating heat map that tracks violence and property crimes and their potential connection to alcohol retailers in East St. Louis to inform policy work in the community
- Scheduling and promoting garden education events to support the garden network as well as additional community and backyard gardeners
- Scheduling community meetings to share information and receive input about Good Neighbor Policy or other policy initiatives that result from mapping project
- Supporting Make Health Happen's participation in community health events including East Side Health District's Garden Expo
- Working with local organizations including Make Health Happen members to recruit and onboard volunteers to support the community gardens in the garden network and local food pantries
- Writing short articles for Make Health Happen's website as well as newsletter and local publications sharing information about local nutrition initiatives
- Review food policies written by food pantries and connect their staff with resources and suggestions for continual improvement

**DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED SERVICE SCHEDULE:**

- **In-person service hours**
- Service hours are to be completed Tuesday-Saturday between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm CT, with one evening a week anticipated
  - The Service Member will work with the Gateway Region YMCA supervisor to set the schedule
- A maximum of 20% of your service hours may be training, education, or other similar approved activities

**DESIRED SKILLS & COMPETENCIES**

- Commitment to community health and equity
- Strong organizational skills
- Good interpersonal communication skills/relationship development skills

**REQUIRED COMMITMENT**

- Service members are expected to complete 1200 service hours within a one (1) year timeframe.
  - The service year begins 03/20/2023 and ends 03/19/2024

**ORIENTATION AND TRAINING**

Members must participate in

- Pre-service orientation
- PHA-specific training
- Program-specific training
- Any other trainings deemed necessary by the Host Service Site supervisor

*Note:* Trainings will be limited to 20% or less of PHA Service Members service hours

**EVALUATION AND REPORTING**

PHA Service Members will:

- Complete quarterly narrative reports and assessments of the PHA Program to include their host site experience, trainings, sense of belongingness and inclusivity, interest in pursuing a career in public health, etc.
- Participate in mid- and end-of-term performance evaluation and reviews with their Host Service Site supervisor
- Be required to submit service timesheets biweekly

**PUBLIC HEALTH AMERICORPS ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS**

PHA Service Members must:

- Be at least 18 years of age at the commencement of service
- Have a high diploma or its equivalent
- A citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States
- Live in the state where the host service site is located
OTHER PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS
- Must be an upper level (3rd or 4th year) undergraduate student or graduate level student enrolled at a college or university pursuing a public health degree or related degree
- Must be willing to comply with all Host Service Site vaccination requirements, including for COVID-19

PUBLIC HEALTH AMERICORPS PROGRAM BENEFITS
- Living allowance of $11,840 over the course of the term of service
- $4,546.50 Segal Education Award at the end of a successful service term
- Student loan deferment and interest forbearance
- Increased professional awareness and accumulated real-world experience to enhance job competence following completion of service year
- Join a network of like-minded leaders who are passionate about improving communities and the health and wellbeing of community members

HOW TO APPLY
1. Find Your Fit: Visit the Public Health AmeriCorps page. Scroll to the bottom of the page to “Find an Opportunity”. Click on the drop-down menu and select a state to find Public Health AmeriCorps opportunities near you. Select the Service Opportunity that you would like to apply to. Scroll down and select “Apply Now!”.
2. Register on the MyAmeriCorps Portal: Before applying for AmeriCorps opportunities, you’ll need to create a profile in the AmeriCorps Portal. Creating your profile is a four-step process.
3. Complete Your Application: Complete the application for the Service Opportunity that you’re interested in by providing the requested information about your skills and experiences.
4. Submit Your Application: Once you’ve completed your application, you’ll be able to submit your application.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
- Pascale D. Edouard, Public Health AmeriCorps Program Manager, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, pedouard@chronidisease.org
- Public Health AmeriCorps
- National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
- Building Resilient and Inclusive Communities Program