

PHA Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the eligibility requirements to become a PHA Service Member?

PHA Service Members must:

- be at least 18 years of age at the commencement of service
- have a high school diploma or its equivalent
- be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States
- live in the state where the host service site is located and be able to support a remote, hybrid, or in-person work schedule
- 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
- be willing to comply with all Host Service Site vaccination requirements, including for COVID-19

2. What is the timeframe to successfully complete 1200 hours of service for the Service Members?

Service Members will have one year (03/20/2023-03/16/2024) to complete their 1200 service hours. Upon placement, Service Member(s) will work with their host site to identify their work schedule, which includes the number of hours they will work each day, etc.

3. Are the 20 service opportunities suitable for individuals pursuing terminal degrees (e.g., PhD)?

Those pursuing terminal degrees and/or who are transitioning from another field into public health are welcome to submit their application for consideration. However, note that this program and the service opportunities themselves are entry level opportunities for individuals interested in entering the public health field.

4. Can Service Members be enrolled in college while completing their service opportunity?

Yes. Per the program eligibility and requirements, as outlined in the service opportunities, ideal candidates include those who are upper level (3rd or 4th year) undergraduate students or graduate level students enrolled at a college or university pursuing a public health (or related) degree. Each service opportunity was designed with undergraduate and masters level students interested in pursuing careers in public health in mind.

5. Can Service Members work in other jobs during their service year?

Yes. Due to program parameters, we recognize that service opportunities do not pay a living wage; as such, Service Members are permitted to work a job(s) outside of their service opportunity commitments as long as outside employment does not interfere with completing the assigned service opportunity responsibilities or hours. We also encourage Service Members to have open lines of communication with their Host Sites/supervisors about other commitments (whether work-related or academic).

6. Are service opportunities online or in-person?

NACDD's PHA program offers 20 unique service opportunities that are a mix of in-person, remote, and hybrid opportunities. Currently, there are four (4) remote and three (3) in-person opportunities. For more information on our service opportunities: Public Health Americorps - National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. Once on the website, scroll down and select the "Service Opportunity Listings" tab.

7. Can Service Members live in another state other than the state where their service opportunity is listed?

No. We would like Service Members to be somewhat familiar with and understand the communities that they're serving. Additionally, most service opportunities are hybrid, which will require that Service Members physically be present at their host site part of the time. If individuals are willing and able to relocate to one of the 10 states where service opportunities are listed, we welcome it. However, we are unable to cover relocation expenses or provide housing assistance.

8. How are remote service opportunities defined?

Service Members must reside in the state where their service opportunity(s) exists (see Q7). Remote service opportunities are those where Service Members do not reside within commuting distance of or in the geographic region where the Host Site is located (but still in the same state). Remote service will be permissible in Year 1 of the program (03/2023-03/2024). For subsequent years of programming, Service Members must reside in the same state AND be within commuting distance of their host site (i.e., remote service will not be permissible).

9. Is the goal of the PHA program to help Service Members find and secure employment at the end of their service year?

Yes. Among the objectives of the PHA program is to provide professional development, training, and mentoring opportunities to Service Members. Beyond training that will build subject matter expertise, we will provide professional development opportunities that support the development of skills such as resume building and interviewing. We anticipate that after their year of service, at least 25% of placed Service Members will commit to pursuing future engagement in the public health sector.

10. What is the living allowance for this program?

During a Service Member's year of service, they will receive a total living allowance of \$11,840.00, disbursed every other week. After successful completion of the required 1200 service hours, Service Members will receive a \$4,546.50 Segal Education Award.