

MCH **PRACTICE** FELLOWSHIP

2025-2026 PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

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Hunger Vital Sign National Community of Practice

Children's HealthWatch at Boston Medical Center

Preceptor: Richard Sheward, MPP, Director of System, Implementation Strategies

Email: richard.sheward@bmc.org

Location: Boston Medical Center, 801 Albany Street, Boston, MA 02119

Number of Fellows: 1

Timeframe: December 2025- December 2026



Background

Hunger Vital Sign™ National Community of Practice (NCoP)

Co-convened by Children's HealthWatch and the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), the NCoP works to facilitate conversations and collective action among a wide-range of stakeholders interested in addressing food insecurity through a health care lens. The overarching goal and purpose of the NCoP is to rapidly share leading best practices and data on food insecurity screening/intervention activities and strategies to scale what works.

Project Description:

- Conduct literature reviews/scans for the latest research on food insecurity screening and interventions in clinical and community settings,
- Collaboration/co-authorship on practice and policy briefs for a national community of practice focused on food insecurity screening and
- Intervention and assist with quarterly meetings of the community of practice.

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Mental Health Advocacy Project for Kids

Health Law Advocate

Supervisor & Mentor:

Marisol Garcia, JD, Project Director mgarcia@hla-inc.org
Patricia Elliott, DrPH, Clinical Associate Professor, CHS Dept.
pelliott@bu.edu



Location: Remote/One Federal Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02110

Number of Fellows: 1

Background

Health Law Advocates' innovative Mental Health Advocacy Program for Kids (MHAP for Kids) eliminates barriers to mental health care for at-risk youth with mental illness. The program embeds lawyers in state-funded Family Resource Centers in all counties across Massachusetts. These attorneys advocate on behalf of children with schools, state agencies, the court system, and health insurers to improve access to mental health care. A multi-year independent study by BUSPH found that the program significantly improves the mental health of participating children and their parents, significantly improves family functioning and significantly improves school attendance. Additionally, the study concluded that MHAP for Kids significantly reduces the need for children's emergency room visits, inpatient admissions and incarceration, thereby saving the state significant sums. HLA's goals are to expand MHAP for Kids statewide and to secure state dollars as the primary sustainable funding source.

As HLA aggressively works toward expanding MHAP for Kids across Massachusetts and nationally, HLA seeks assistance with collecting information to support, inform, and guide our efforts.

Fellow Role/Specific Activities:

- contact families and schedule interviews
- conduct interviews with parents and stakeholders in-person, by zoom, or by phone
- help prepare collect and analyze data
- maintain accurate records of interviews, safeguarding the confidentiality of subjects
- participate in administrative duties related to study management, analysis, and
- dissemination of findings
- work within the team of staff attorneys and paralegals to support the program
- job-shadow or attend meetings/sessions to learn about the broader work of Health Law
- Advocates, the public interest law firm where this program sits

Ideal candidates will have a flexible schedule.

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Support for Strategic Programs Portfolio

Institute for Medicaid Innovation (IMI)



Preceptor: La Tasha Barnwell, DrPH, Associate Director for Strategic Programs and Project Team Leads

Email: lbarnwell@medicaidinnovation.org

Number of Fellows: 2

Timeframe: December 2025- December 2026

Background:

The MCH fellows will work with the Associate Director for Strategic Programs and Projects Teams Leads to support key initiatives of IMI, including:

- *Expansion of Midwifery-Led Models of Care Initiative*

The initiative aims to expand access to evidence-based, midwifery-led care models within Medicaid. This project offers experience in policy analysis, stakeholder engagement, and implementation science focused on improving maternal health outcomes.

- *Doula Learning and Action Collaborative*

This initiative centers community-based doulas by strengthening workforce support, reimbursement models, and data collection. Fellows will engage in qualitative research, communications, and supporting provision of technical assistance to advocates and partners. health equity advocacy.

- *National Strategic Medicaid Maternal Health Coalition*

This national coalition brings together Medicaid stakeholders to advance maternal health strategies. Fellows will gain experience in coalition-building, strategic planning, and policy development at the intersection of public health and healthcare systems.

- *Perinatal Health Policy Dashboard*

Fellows will help maintain and enhance a data dashboard that tracks state-level maternal health policies. This project provides hands-on experience in health policy analysis, data visualization, and translating complex data into actionable insights.

- *Youth Behavioral Health Program Planning and Design*

This initiative focuses on designing Medicaid-based solutions to expand youth mental health services. Fellows will support needs assessments, program development, and stakeholder interviews to address critical behavioral health gaps.

- *Data and Research-Based Projects*

Throughout the fellowship, students will contribute to multiple research projects that use quantitative and qualitative methods to inform Medicaid policy and innovation. Fellows will enhance their skills in data analysis, literature reviews, survey development, and research translation.

Fellow Role/Specific Activities:

The MCH fellow will be responsible for independently managing discreet tasks, as

assigned by the Associate Director for Strategic Programs and project team leads, in support of IMI programs and initiatives.

The fellow will work in partnership with IMI team members on the following types of tasks for the projects listed above:

- Write issue briefs, implementation toolkits, project proposals, readiness assessments, case studies, and reports to be used by program partners to implement best practices related to portfolio priorities.
- Support team leads with developing detailed project plans and regularly updating project management tools.
- Conduct environmental scans of state Medicaid policies and related federal policy priorities and opportunities.
- Provide support for IMI's committees, subcommittees, and workgroups.
- Contribute to implementation and dissemination activities, including presentations, conference posters, issue briefs, technical reports, blog posts, and manuscripts for a variety of audiences.
- Conduct data analysis and apply analytical techniques to extract insights, support decision-making, and drive strategic initiatives.
- Identify gaps and opportunities for future initiatives and projects.
- Support development efforts to raise funds for future initiatives and projects.
- Plan the content and logistics for virtual and in-person meetings.
- Produce slide decks, talking points, meeting agendas, and meeting notes.

We are seeking a self-starter, with a desire and talent for building systems and processes to ensure our programs and initiatives are effectively turned from concepts to high-quality deliverables and supported with efficient project management. As with all roles within IMI, this position is responsible for championing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice through all duties and deliverables.

About the Institute for Medicaid Innovation

The Institute for Medicaid Innovation (IMI) is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit, nonpartisan research, policy, and community power-building organization that provides independent information and analysis to inform Medicaid policy and improve the health of the nation. For more information about IMI, please visit our website.

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FlowTech4Girls

Love Your Menses



Supervisor & Mentor: Ebere Azumah, MD, Co-Founder and President

Email: eazumah@loveyourmenses.com

Number of Fellows: 2

Background

HeFlowTech4Girls© is a social and technology innovation program designed by Love Your Menses, Inc. to introduce Black and Brown girls ages 11-16 to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) activities, menstrual health education, civic engagement and mentorship.

Each participant will have the opportunity to learn about the physiology of the menstrual cycle and public health and how to use AI to advocate for health equity for young girls.

We know that cultural stigmas and lack of menstrual education can cause fear and shame globally for girls beginning their menstrual journey at menarche-occurrence of the first period.

FlowTech4Girls aims to destigmatize menstrual health by designing a youth focused technology platform to educate, inform, support, and empower Black and Brown girls throughout their adolescent menstrual journey.

Fellow Role/Specific Activities:

The Fellow will be trained as a Menstrual Health Coach and use their knowledge to support FlowTech4Girls program or similar programs.

The program is mostly virtual but has events that require in-person participation.

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Maternal and Child Health Data Briefs

Massachusetts Department of Public Health



Supervisors & Mentor:

Sarah L. Stone, Director, Office of Data Translation (ODT), Division of Maternal and Child Health Research and Analysis (DMCHRA) sarah.l.stone@mass.gov
Xiaohui Geng, PRAMS Coordinator, ODT/DMCHRA, Xiaohui.Geng@mass.gov

Location: 250 Washington Street, 5th Floor, Boston MA 02108

Timeframe: December 2025-December 2026

Number of Fellows: 1-2

Background: The Division of Maternal and Child Health Research and Analysis (DMCHRA) optimizes the health of infants, children, mothers, and families in all Massachusetts communities by strengthening partnerships and translating data to action. DMCHRA provides statistical information for needs assessment, performance management, and decision support throughout the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition (BFHN) using data analytics, survey work, and evaluation studies. DMCHRA also advises federal grant applications, performance monitoring, clinical research, community mobilization to broaden public awareness, establishment of strategic initiatives to address concerning and emerging trends, as well as many daily functions of Bureau programs. In addition, DMCHRA collaborates with other DPH Bureaus and as well as institutions such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, March of Dimes, and local schools of public health, particularly Boston University.

Within DMCHRA, two of our projects include: 1) The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a population based-surveillance system designated to identify and monitor selected maternal experiences and behaviors that occur before, during, and after pregnancy as well as the child's early infancy experience. PRAMS data collection began in June 2007. 2) The Massachusetts Parenthood and Fatherhood Experiences survey is population based-surveillance system designated to identify and monitor selected new fathers' and second parents' experiences and behaviors that occur around the time of their child's birth as well as the child's early infancy experience. The Parenthood and Fatherhood Experiences survey began as a pilot project in 2024.

Fellowship Description: The student will work with our DMCHRA staff to create fact sheets and data briefs using PRAMS data and the Parenthood and Fatherhood Experiences data on topics including effects of racism on health, maternal and paternal mental health, social determinants of health and infant outcomes, COVID vaccinations, and barriers to healthcare. Other possible topics for fact sheets include but are not limited to prenatal substance use (e.g., smoking, e-smoking, alcohol, marijuana),

interpersonal violence, factors associated with preterm birth, breastfeeding and hospital support, Family Medical Leave (maternity leave), and home visiting services. Fact sheets and data briefs will be posted on our division's website at Mass.gov and shared with our clinical and community partners. The student will gain an understanding of many factors that contribute to maternal, paternal, and child health (MCH) during pregnancy and postpartum, and of how to analyze population-based survey data

Fellow Role/Specific Activities

Specific activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Review literature based on topic of fact sheet/data brief to understand the health landscape
- Review existing analyses
- Conduct analyses in SAS that can accommodate complex weighting of the survey sampling
- Summarize and interpret the findings of analyses
- Draft fact sheets/data briefs
- Support development of dissemination plans for deliverables

Key skill or topic areas:

- SAS analysis, survey data analysis
- health data communications, data visualization

Additional Qualifications:

- Intermediate SAS skills required
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Flexible, self-motivated
- Well-organized
- Ability to work well in a team setting
- Some knowledge of data visualization helpful
- Some knowledge of Maternal and Child Health helpful.

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Development of a Client Management System for the Division of Children & Youth with Special Health Needs to Improve Program and Family Outcomes

Massachusetts Department of Public Health



Supervisors & Mentors:

Megan Young, Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs megan.e.young@mass.gov

Elizabeth Bostic, Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs

elizabeth.e.bostic@mass.gov

Location: 250 Washington St., Boston MA 02108 (Fellowship primarily remote)

Timeframe: December 2025 – December 2026

Number of Fellows: 1-2

Background: The Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs (DCYSHN) within the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition (BFHN) at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), works with families, providers, and others to support children and youth with special health needs ages birth to 22 and their families. This includes children and youth with chronic medical, physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions.

The Division is comprised of 9 programs, each with its own unique data collection system ranging from Excel to Access to more sophisticated SQL databases to track client information and program data. The Division (and Bureau) is developing a client management system, with robust reporting capabilities, that will streamline the intake process for families and standardize and align data collection across all programs in order to comprehensively assess reach, impact, and gaps in service provision. This in turn will lead to broader outreach across the Commonwealth and improved outcomes for children and their families.

Fellowship Description

The DCYSHN seeks a Fellow to assist in conducting JAD (Joint Application Development) sessions with programs in preparation of the development their individual program database and integration into the broader division-wide client management system. Programs include the Community Support Line, Care Coordination, CCATER center, MASSTART, Medical Review Team, and Family TIES. Two additional Bureau programs will also be part of this initiative, including the Birth Defects Monitoring System and the Growth and Nutrition program. Four programs to date have launched their new databases under this initiative. A fifth will launch their new database later this year.

Fellow Role/Specific Activities

Specific activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Meeting with each program to conduct a JAD session which will include:
 - Mapping out current program data and reporting needs
 - Creating workflows for the client management system
 - Utilizing a quality improvement approach when updating data collection tools to ensure variables align with DPH data standards, meet client and program needs, can assess trends over time, and measure outcomes
 - Determining feasibility of moving historical data into new system
- Engaging families to assess if updates to data collection tools appropriately balance program and family needs without placing an undue burden on families
- Supporting development and testing of client management system both in Oracle APEX and REDCap

There may be opportunities to participate in department wide activities and the daily life experiences of state public health employees including all staff meetings, recognition and awards program, career panel and more.

Key Skills/Qualifications

- Flexible, enthusiastic, self-motivated
- Committed to supporting MDPH's mission of promoting and improving health for all, with a focus on children and youth with special health needs
- Experience or interest in program evaluation and/or database development preferred, especially with RedCap

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Resource Development and Community Engagement

Our Bodies Ourselves



Supervisor & Mentor: Grace Koch, MPH, Program Associate

Email: grace@ourbodiesourselves.org

Timeframe: December 2025 – December 2026

Number of Fellows: 1

Background:

Our Bodies Ourselves (OBOS) is an educational, activist initiative supporting the health and sexuality of women and gender-expansive people. We carefully develop and curate trustworthy, evidence-based resources and compelling personal stories, all framed by incisive feminist analysis on our freely accessible website.

The MCH fellowship project will focus on expanding informational resources on the OBOS digital platform.

Fellowship Activities/Role

The fellow will create original written and visual content on specific MCH related topics, conduct recorded interviews with experts in the field, and collect underrepresented individuals' stories about their health experiences. In addition, the fellow will support OBOS's work in community outreach and partnerships, including collaborative content creation and event planning. An Our Bodies Ourselves fellowship would give a BUSPH student experience in public health communications, feminist activism, and community driven work. There is potential for additional special projects, based on the student's strengths and interests.

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Perinatal Decision Aid Update

Partner to Decide

Partner to Decide

Supervisor & Mentor: Dr. Ann Peralta, DrPH. MPH, Founder and CEO

Email: aperalta@partnertodecide.org

Timeframe: December 2025 – December 2026

Number of Fellows: 1

Background:

Partner to Decide is an organization that seeks to improve the quality of perinatal care by improving the experience of key decisions such as if and when to have an induction of labor.

Fellowship Activities/Role

The fellow will assist Partner to Decide in updating its decision aid on routine labor induction to address three additional needs:

1) those of people in rural areas for whom distance to birthing facilities is a consideration, 2) those with high BMIs, and 3) those who are over 35 or over 40. Creating these updates will involve conducting literature reviews, learning from researchers and clinicians in the field, proposing design solutions, collaborating with UX and graphic designers, and collecting and analyzing data from field testing it with clinicians and pregnant women and other birthing people.

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Nutrition Engagement & Elder Community Partners

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services



Supervisor & Mentor: Avery Margenot, MPH, Director of Nutrition and Community Partnerships

Email: avery.margenot@eldercare.org

Timeframe: December 2025 – December 2026

Number of Fellows: 1-2

Background:

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services is a non-profit dedicated to helping older adults and adults with disabilities maintain independence and well-being at home, by providing services, supports, and information.

The project seeks to increase enrollment among congregate meal sites for elders in Somerville & Cambridge and identify quality improvement initiatives to improve satisfaction with program delivery, and other KPI's among elders.

Fellowship Activities/Role

The fellow will coordinate enrollment events, develop workflows and support data entry. The fellow can also engage with housing site coordinators and dietitians to design and implement nutrition, housing, and social determinants of health-related education events such as healthy eating, diabetes management, emergency preparedness, or addressing loneliness and isolation for elders.

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Utilizing Community Health Workers within MCH

Rhode Island Department of Health



Supervisor & Mentor: Deborah Garneau, MA, Maternal and Child Health Director
Email: deborah.garneau@health.ri.gov

Timeframe: December 2025 – December 2026

Number of Fellows: 1-2

Background:

The Maternal and Child Health Program (Title V) of Rhode Island, a partnership between Rhode Island and the federal government, aims to support the health and well-being of all mothers, children, and families. Several of RI MCH's priorities concern utilizing CHWs within the maternal, child, adolescent, and special needs delivery system. RI currently offers Medicaid reimbursement for CHWs and would like to further embed CHWs within the primary, specialty, and special needs service delivery system.

Fellowship Activities/Role

The fellow will work with the program director to support a range of activities as these CHW - related initiatives are rolled out.

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