Professional Associate – Scientific
Public Health Epidemiologist Fellow – Children's Environmental Health
Division of Public Health

This is entry-level professional work providing a full range of services to state agencies in a variety of disciplines. Positions in this class are assigned less complex projects or problems, or are assigned segments of an overall larger and more complex project. Work assignments are characterized by defined objectives and specific guidelines, but require an overall understanding of project design and purpose. The Professional Associate classification is intended as a resource to attract entry-level talent in various fields to the State.

Project Description

This epidemiologist will increase the capacity of the NC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (NC CLPPP) to provide enhanced surveillance and lead hazard identification in at-risk geographic areas and populations in two key areas:

- By serving to incorporate environmental sample analysis into the NCLEAD surveillance system. NC CLPPP has begun to make changes to NCLEAD to make reporting environmental sample data to the CDC easier and more efficient, and in anticipation of an influx of environmental sample data over the next four years due to the ARPA funding. However, progress had to stop so the system could undergo a major upgrade to the next version, a process expected to take until July 2023. Activities here may include: participating in vendor technical assistance calls, performing system testing, understanding funder reporting requirements, and interfacing with the State Lab and other laboratories that analyze environmental samples.
- By serving as primary technical assistance contact for local health department and regional environmental users of NCLEAD, to correct missing/incomplete environmental data in the Property Event, particularly for elevated blood lead cases (EBLs) and confirmed lead poisoning cases (CLPs). End users will have varying computer skill levels so clear communication and patience is necessary. This may include advocating for (and taking the lead on) system improvements that environmental users would find beneficial to their work and participating in vendor technical assistance calls. This may also include coming up with a system to manage regular follow-up with environmental users via phone, email, and/or within NCLEAD itself and monitoring environmental workflows so that cases progress as they are worked.

In addition, the epidemiologist will be expected to contribute to the ongoing activities of the data team, which may include:

- End user training
- NCLEAD system administration and Help Desk support

- Data collection, data cleaning, data processing, data entry, and data analysis requests
- Presentations
- Maintaining a working relationship with other agencies and coordinating efforts to meet program requirements and goals
- Participating in grant reporting

Through this position, the epidemiologist would gain experience working with local health department staff and an understanding of how the CLPP program works in NC - when environmental follow-up is required and what happens when hazards are found and are required to be remediated.

Manager Preference
- Knowledge of applied epidemiology
- Knowledge of evaluation and quality assurance of surveillance data
- Attention to detail

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities
- Working knowledge of epidemiologic principles, investigations, surveillance, study design, descriptive statistics, statistical analysis and interpretation of statistical data and scientific literature.
- Considerable knowledge of biostatistics including the use of statistical software and statistical programming languages.
- Considerable knowledge of database design, management and manipulation.
- Excellent computer skills including experience with word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and generating presentation material related to data analyses.
- Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing.

Minimum Education and Experience
Master's degree in Epidemiology or closely related health field from an appropriately accredited institution.
or
Bachelor's degree in Epidemiology or closely related health field from an appropriately accredited institution and two years of related experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.