Health Policy & Planning Internship Program

The San Mateo County Health System is seeking a dedicated and hardworking **Healthy Economy Intern** to join the Health Policy and Planning (HPP) team, a program within the Public Health, Policy and Planning Division. The HPP Internship Program is designed to provide work opportunities and practical learning experiences in public health, policy, planning, and research, with an emphasis in health equity and place-based primary prevention.

HPP Framework: Primary Prevention & Health Equity

There is a growing recognition that where we live, work, play, and go to school shape our health. HPP focuses on building healthy, equitable communities that prevent people from getting sick in the first place. HPP works to ensure all people have the opportunity for health and wellbeing and seeks to build health equity by addressing the root causes of poor health, such as the social, economic, and physical conditions around us. To achieve this goal, HPP employs expertise in policy, planning, research, equity, epidemiology, communications, and advocacy. HPP has a particular focus on supporting populations with higher rates of preventable health issues and in places with the fewest opportunities for health.  
  
HPP is currently focused on four areas of work:

1. Stable and affordable housing: protects health and provides the ability to engage in healthy opportunities.
2. Complete neighborhoods: make it easy for residents to be healthy every day in their own communities.
3. High quality education: creates pathways to better health.
4. Strong local economy: builds household financial security for all.

To learn more about HPP’s work visit [www.gethealthysmc.org.](http://www.gethealthysmc.org/)

Internship Overview: Healthy Economy Intern

The focus of the internship project will be to assist Health System staff in researching and developing strategies to maximize economic opportunity for people facing economic barriers in San Mateo County. Access to stable employment, adequate income and benefits can help build financial security and improve overall health and well-being.

Despite the Bay Area’s recent unprecedented growth, income inequality is increasing and many working and middle class residents have been left behind—facing higher rates of unemployment and low wages, financial insecurity and shrinking social supports. These conditions make it difficult to afford and meet basic needs, leading to higher rates of depression, stress and preventable diseases like asthma, obesity and diabetes, ultimately leading to lower life expectancy and poor health.

However they are not inevitable. Health Policy and Planning works with cities, school, and businesses, community–based organizations and workers to foster a strong local economy that supports everyone’s health. The Healthy Economy Intern will assist HPP’s to advance existing work and help define future work towards this goal. The intern will analyze current conditions, synthesize best practices and propose solutions. More specifically, the intern will work on any of the following:

* Provide research support and recommendations to explore anchor institution models to advance community health in San Mateo County.
* Research and provide recommendations to advance workforce development and job training
* Research and provide recommendations to help families build financial security through financial wellness programs and policies,
* Research and draft posts on healthy economy topics for the monthly newsletter and social media.
* Help develop guidelines to promote equitable economic opportunities in planning processes.

The **ideal candidate** will have:

* Background in Public Health, Public Policy, Urban Planning, Socially Responsible Business Administration, or Economic and/or Workforce Development.
* Understanding of the intersection between the public health and planning/economic development fields and knowledge of principles of health equity and how place impacts health.
* Knowledge of community economic development policies and programs.
* Interest and dedication to advancing health and equity demonstrated through work experience and/or personal experience having been adversely affected by health inequities.
* Strong skills in data collection, data analysis and quantitative and qualitative research.
* Ability to review technical and policy documents/publications, synthesize complex data, and identify recommendations.
* Strong writing skills and experience in writing policy briefs/reports.
* Strong communication and people skills.
* Strong organizations and time management skills and ability to work independently toward excellent work outcomes.

Eligibility

* Current graduate level students and recent graduates - up to one year after graduation date – are eligible to apply. You may not be a current San Mateo County employee.
* Successful applicants will possess a deep passion for addressing health inequities and experience working to change them. Relevant experience may include:
  + Personal or family experience dealing with inequitable economic, social, health and educational systems and environments. For instance: being the first in your family to attend higher-education, growing up in a low-income neighborhood, experiencing housing/financial instability, or facing racial/ethnic or other types of discrimination.
  + Professional experience in programs that promote equity (this can be through a multitude of intervention types and variety of locations or organizations).

Internship Term & Pay

This HPP Internship program runs year round. The Summer Internship runs from June to August and the intern must commit to working between 32-40 hours per week. **The Fall/Spring internship runs between November and May 2017-18 and the intern must commit to working between 16 to 20 hours per week.** Reasonable timeframe adjustments can be negotiated Graduate students are paid $20.00 per hour.

How to Apply

Complete and submit an application to [HPPinternship@smcgov.org](mailto:HPPinternship@smcgov.org) with the following required attachments:

1. Cover Letter: Please describe your interest in and qualifications for this internship in the cover letter including position you are applying for.
2. Resume
3. Completed application and supplemental questionnaire (see next page)

The **application deadline** for the Internship is **September 8, 2017**at **11:59pm PST**.

Only completed applications will be reviewed; please contact us if you do not receive a confirmation we received your application. If selected, you will be invited for an interview. In-person interviews are strongly preferred, but telephone interviews can be arranged if needed.

Questions

Rosa Torpis, Program Coordinator

225 37th Avenue, 1st Floor, San Mateo, CA 94403

Telephone: (650) 573-2462

E-mail: [hppinternship@smcgov.org](mailto:hppinternship@smcgov.org)

[www.facebook.com/GetHealthySMC](http://www.facebook.com/GetHealthySMC)

[www.twitter.com/GetHealthySMC](http://www.twitter.com/GetHealthySMC)



**INTERNSHIP**

**APPLICATION FORM**

**Return to:** [**HPPinternship@smcgov.org**](mailto:HPPinternship@smcgov.org)

or fax to (650) 573-2116

To be completed by the student and sent directly to [hppinternship@smcgov.org](mailto:hppinternship@smcgov.org). Applications should be submitted as early as possible.

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| **Name** | **­­­­­­­­­­** | | | | |
| **Address** |  | | | | |
| **Telephone** |  | | | **Email:** | |
| **Status (select one):** | | **Current Student, What Year (1st, 2nd, etc):**  **Recent Graduate (up to one year from graduation)** | | | |
| **Educational institution:** | | **College/University:** | | | **Major/Minor:** |
| **Availability (month/year)** | | **From:** | | | **To:** |
| **What days and hours will you be able to work during the week**  **(Mon – Fri)?** | | |  | | |
| **Is this internship a requirement for the completion of a practicum, degree, or certificate?** | | | **Yes:**  **Hours required**:       **No:** | | |
| **Additional information, special qualifications and/or school requirements (work-study, community service, etc.)** | | |  | | |
| **How did you hear about the HPP Internship Program** | | | **Career Services  Web Search  Word of Mouth**  **Other** | | |
| **References** | | | **List name and contact information for two references** | | |

**Required Supplemental Questions**

Please limit your answers to **300 words or less** per question.

1. Please describe how you meet one or more of the following eligibility criteria:
   1. You have personal or family experience dealing with inequitable economic, social, health and educational systems and environments. For instance: being the first in your family to attend higher-education, growing up in a low-income neighborhood, experiencing housing/financial instability, or facing racial/ethnic or other types of discrimination.
   2. You have a deep passion for addressing health inequities, and have experience working in programs that promote equity. This can be through a multitude of intervention types and variety of locations or organizations.

1. Please provide an example of a project that involved research, data collection, analysis and completion of a final report. Be specific about a) your role in the project and b) the research and data collection methodology used.