ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The purpose of the Maternal and Child Health Public Health Catalyst Program is to provide an increased focus on fundamental MCH content and competencies within schools of public health where no concentration currently exists; and provide MCH content exposure to an increased number of public health students, introducing students to careers in the maternal and child health field.

Catalyst programs provide MCH exposure to graduate students, including individuals from underrepresented backgrounds who are also underrepresented in the maternal and child health field.

The five Catalyst programs implement the following activities:

• Develop and offer a graduate-level credit bearing course focused on foundational MCH content,

• Support student organizations, events and activities that bring students together who are interested in maternal and child health, and

• Recruit qualified students from economically disadvantaged and racial/ethnic minority backgrounds.

COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES AND ALIGNMENT WITH TITLE V

• Adopt a program philosophy that is geared towards the preparation of diverse students to enter careers in state Title V MCH programs and local public health agencies

• Educate students on the historical, legislative, and public health systems knowledge base regarding Title V and related programs in the United States

• Incorporate participation of state Title V practicing professionals and diverse stakeholders as curriculum advisors and as faculty

• Provide practicum opportunities for students in state Title V agencies

PROGRAM IMPACT

Trainees

In FY 2016, the Catalyst Program trained 80 short-term trainees and 61 medium-term trainees.

Trainee Diversity

In FY 2016, 54% of Catalyst trainees were from an underrepresented racial group and 16% were Hispanic/Latino.
DIVISION OF MCH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (DMCHWD)

DMCHWD, part of the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Maternal and Child Health Bureau, provides national leadership and direction in educating and training our nation’s current and future leaders in maternal and child health (MCH). The Division also provides leadership through state and community-based capacity building programs.

Special emphasis is placed on the development and implementation of interprofessional, family-centered, community-based and culturally competent systems of care across the entire life course.

DMCHWD supports programs established in federal legislation (Title V of the Social Security Act, the Autism CARES Act, and the 21st Century CURES Act) to complement state and local health agency efforts. DMCHWD partners with state MCH programs, academic institutions, professional organizations, and other health training programs of the federal government to ensure that MCH workforce development programs are grounded in emerging and evidence-based practices.

In FY 2016, DMCHWD awarded 161 grants, an investment of approximately $47 million.

PROJECT LOCATIONS

Florida
- Florida International University, Miami

New Jersey
- Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Piscataway

New York
- University at Albany, State University of New York

Pennsylvania
- Drexel University, Philadelphia

Texas
- Texas A&M University, College Station

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