



2018 Mental Health Outreach Fellowship QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Open date: January 3, 2018

Mental Health Outreach Fellowship Overview

The PA Foundation Mental Health Outreach Fellowship is designed to connect PAs' clinical expertise and compassion to community need with a specific emphasis on mental health. Tapping into the established and growing community outreach program developed by NCBH, the fellowship seeks to equip a pilot cohort of 16 PAs to conduct outreach in their communities as trainers using the validated Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) curriculum. As Mental Health First Aid instructors, Mental Health Outreach Fellows will serve as presenters, facilitators and ambassadors of the MHFA program.

The goal of the MHFA program is to improve the mental health knowledge and skills of the U.S. public in an effort to prepare individuals to recognize and respond to signs of early-stage mental illness and mental health crisis, offer and provide initial help, and guide a person toward appropriate professional support. This program may be likened to CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), a familiar community health education training which has prepared laypeople to respond to cardiac emergencies for several generations.

The first cohort of PA Foundation Mental Health Outreach Fellows will participate in the following:

- A **three-day introductory fellows symposia*** to be held **March 26-28, 2018, in Alexandria, VA**, which will include:
 - MHFA community trainer training, which teaches participants how to teach the MHFA course. This will enhance the skill set of the PAs who are clinically trained to diagnose mental illness but not necessarily trained to educate adult learners.
- Training will include instruction on **creating business plans, forming community partnerships, and outreach.**
- Fellows will conduct **community outreach and training to a minimum of 100 people.**
- Upon completion of the required local training, the PA Foundation Mental Health Outreach Fellows will be required to submit de-identified outcomes of the **pre-/post-training test** to assess participants' change in knowledge, attitudes and behavior before and after training.
- Fellows will be required to **submit a report** and provide insights on healthcare providers as MHFA trainers and their recommendations for refining and expanding the program to build out a strong PA network of MHFA trainers, as well as their plan to continue the program locally.
- Fellows will be invited to submit MHFA **poster presentations** for the 2019 AAPA conference.

Fellows will receive a \$1,250 honorarium/stipend for their participation in the program. The PA Foundation will cover and/or reimburse the cost of the following:

- Airfare/transportation
- Lodging
- Meals

**The training will begin early on March 26; therefore, selected participants traveling to the training will likely need to plan to arrive on March 25.*

Eligibility Criteria

All grant applications must be submitted by one or more PAs or PA students who are members in good standing of AAPA.

Who Should Apply?

As Mental Health First Aid instructors, Mental Health Outreach Fellows will serve as presenters, facilitators and ambassadors of the Mental Health First Aid USA program.

Fellows should be comfortable presenting to a group of adults and facilitating groups.

Application Process

The application is available online through the PA Foundation website. [Click here](#) to access the application form.

Fellowship Requirements

The Mental Health First Aid instructor training will be held on **March 26-28, 2018**, in Alexandria, VA. All selected Fellows must attend this training.

Upon completion of the required local training, the PA Foundation Mental Health Outreach Fellows will be required to submit de-identified outcomes of the **pre-/post-training test** to assess participants' change in knowledge, attitudes and behavior before and after training.

Fellows will be required to **submit a report** and provide insights on healthcare providers as MHFA trainers and their recommendations for refining and expanding the program to build out a strong PA network of MHFA trainers, as well as their plan to continue the program locally.

Fellows will be invited to submit MHFA **poster presentations** for the 2019 AAPA conference.

Questions?

Contact Caroline Pierce at cpierce@aapa.org or 571.319.4510.

Application deadline is January 31, 2018.