Who is the Research & Evaluation (R&E) Group at Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC)?

R&E Group is a part of PHMC, one of the largest and most comprehensive nonprofit public health organizations in the nation. R&E Group conducts applied research and evaluation, including work on program efficacy, intervention effectiveness, and needs assessments, as part of a dynamic non-profit. We provide a range of expertise and strategies tailored to the goals and questions of each of our clients, ensuring scientifically valid information that can be easily applied to their work. Our team partners with clients to address pressing research questions, produce science-driven evaluations, inform programming, and facilitate technical assistance and strategy development. To learn more about our clients and work, please visit our website: www.phmcresearch.org

What is the PHMC Visiting Scholars Program at R&E Group?

In 2018, R&E Group was awarded a grant from the Public Health Fund to establish PHMC’s first Visiting Scholars Program. The PHMC Visiting Scholars Program provides a unique opportunity for select scholars in the social, educational and behavioral sciences to pursue their research in collaboration with PHMC researchers and practitioners. We invite applications from a diversity of scholars and disciplines, but for the 2019-2020 program year are especially interested in scholars with an interest in addiction, chronic disease, and health services.

How long is the program term?

The visiting scholars program is one year (12 months) in length. Scholars are expected to complete all program requirements within the one year term. Specific time frames are constructed on a case-by-case basis. Positions begin September 1st, 2019 and run through August 31, 2020. On occasion, the start or end date of the scholarship may be adjusted.
What are the program requirements?
In addition to pursuing their own individual research, Visiting Scholars are expected to complete the following activities:
- Hold 1-2 learning sessions with R&E staff to discuss their research, ideas, and expertise
- Lead the submission of one grant proposal in collaboration with R&E Group staff
- Prepare a submission-ready manuscript of their individual research in collaboration with R&E Group staff for publication
- Present research to PHMC at the conclusion of their residence

Can the program be completed remotely?
Although the amount of time committed by scholars may vary somewhat, we anticipate that scholars will devote approximately 16 hours per month to their work with PHMC or two days per month at R&E Group offices to facilitate collaboration. Scholar time may include work conducted at PHMC or remotely. Ideally, the majority of this time will be spent on-site at PHMC.

What are the eligibility requirements?
All scholar applicants must have a Ph.D. or comparable terminal degree and a career background that demonstrates their ability to conduct high-level, peer-reviewed research. Preferred applicants will be several years beyond the Ph.D. Faculty affiliated with an academic institution in the tri-state (Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware) area who are conducting research in an area aligned with our portfolio of projects are eligible to apply for one of two open visiting scholar positions. Applications from doctoral, graduate, or undergraduate students will not be accepted.

Are Visiting Scholars compensated?
Yes. Scholars receive an annual stipend of $5,000 to support their work at PHMC. At program inception, Scholars will receive $2,500. The remaining $2,500 will be dispersed at program completion.

What is provided to Visiting Scholars?
Scholars are provided with a work space at PHMC in the R&E Group. He/she/they will work closely with research colleagues within the R&E Group. Scholars receive Visiting Scholar distinction and gain access to R&E Group data, resources, and accommodations, and are able to participate in departmental meetings, training opportunities, and other events as appropriate.
FAQs

What kind of data is available?
Various data sources are available for use. Examples include; PHMC’s electronic health records maintained through its six health centers throughout Philadelphia and community-level health and social service data collected through the Community Health Database’s Southeastern Pennsylvania Household Health Survey. Our goal is to work closely with Visiting Scholars to identify an area of new research, pursue grant funding in support of the research, and work together to successfully implement new research activities.

Can scholars conduct research on any topic?
No. All potential Scholars should conduct research that is relevant to R&E Group’s strategic priority areas and current portfolio of programs. We are dedicated to ensuring a meaningful experience for our scholars. Please contact us if you would like to discuss your research ideas and how they align with our focus areas.

What is the selection criteria?
All Visiting Scholar applications are reviewed by a selection committee at PHMC comprised of researchers and practitioners. The selection of Visiting Scholars is based on both an individual’s demonstrated record of research accomplishment and the merit of the applicant’s proposed project. Several criteria are given special consideration in the selection process. The project’s relevance to PHMC’s declared mission to improve the health of the community by providing outreach, health promotion, education, research, planning, technical assistance, and direct services. Strong preference is given to proposals connected to PHMC’s current programs, available data and initiatives. We also are committed to including talented early career scholars and to promote racial/ethnic, gender and disciplinary diversity in each year’s cohort.

How can I apply?
Applications are due to PHMC by April 30, 2019. Brief applications are submitted on the R&E Group website. As part of your application, we ask that you provide a short proposal describing the project to be undertaken while in residence at PHMC (not more than 2 pages single spaced) and an up-to-date CV.
FAQs

What should be included in the proposal?
The proposal should be limited to two pages and briefly indicate the importance of the project, present the major questions or hypotheses to be addressed, indicate the data sources you will/hope to utilize at PHMC, describe the general research methodology, and discuss what outcome(s) will be produced during your scholarship.

Who should I contact for more information?
If you have additional questions, please contact Lisa Bond, Managing Director of the Research & Evaluation Group, at lisab@phmc.org or 215-985-2531.

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