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. The R&E Group is a team of 75 researchers and evaluators working on diverse projects ranging from large randomized controlled trials of interventions to tailored program evaluations for national and local organizations. Our work is community-facing and collaborative, and is focused in four core areas: Family Strengthening and Child Wellbeing, Addictions, Public Health and Teaching and Learning. To learn more about our work, please visit our website: www.phmcresearch.org

What is the PHMC Visiting Scholars Program?

In 2018, R&E Group was awarded a grant from the Public Health Fund to establish the 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 2020-2021 program year are seeking Scholars whose research is focused in addictions and criminal justice, early childhood education, and hepatitis C.

How long is the program term?

The Visiting Scholars program is one year in length. Scholars are expected to complete all program requirements within the one year term. Positions begin on September 8th, 2020 and run through August 31, 2021. On occasion, the start or end date of the scholarship may be adjusted.
What are the program requirements?
Our goal is to work closely with Visiting Scholars to collaborate on new research, pursue grant funding in support of the research, and disseminate the findings of this research through publication. We also look forward to learning from our Scholars through presentations on their work to PHMC researchers and practitioners. With this in mind, our requirements of Visiting Scholars include:

- Working in collaboration with PHMC researchers, lead or co-lead a grant proposal in support of new research.
- Working in collaboration with PHMC researchers, prepare a research manuscript for submission to a peer reviewed journal.
- At the conclusion of the one year scholar program, conduct a presentation on activities and achievements completed during the scholarship residency to PHMC researchers, practitioners and leadership.

What is the time commitment? 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. (Note: In light of COVID-19, time spent on-site at PHMC may be adjusted).

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. and affiliated with an academic institution that is within commuting distance of PHMC's headquarters in Philadelphia (e.g. PA, NJ, DE, MD, and NY). Importantly we are seeking researchers whose interests align closely with our portfolio of projects. Applications from doctoral, graduate, or undergraduate students will not be accepted. If you would like to learn more about internship opportunities or conducting doctoral research at PHMC, please contact Brian Zepka at bzepka@phmc.org

Are Visiting Scholars compensated?
Yes. Scholars receive an annual stipend of $5,000 to support their work at PHMC. This stipend can be paid directly to the Scholar or to the Scholar's academic institution.
FAQs

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 data, resources, and accommodations, and are able to participate in departmental meetings, training opportunities, and other events as appropriate.

Can scholars conduct research on any topic?
No. Each year we seek Scholars with particular areas of focus, to ensure a good fit with our current research portfolio. 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. For the 2020-2021 year, we are seeking Scholars whose research focuses on addictions, hepatitis C and early childhood education.

Specifically, PHMC is seeking Scholars with the following research interests:

**Early Childhood Education:** PHMC has a very large portfolio of early childhood education programs and services. Some key programs include serving as the City’s intermediary for its universal PreK initiative, Pennsylvania’s ECE professional development provider for Philadelphia and its surrounding counties, and coordinator of the Early Learning Resource Center to improve the quality of and access to early learning services in the surrounding region. We are seeking a Scholar with research interests in one of the following: best practices and approaches for insuring that children with special needs are included and succeed in early learning environments; instructional coaching, including best approaches and models for improving early learning instruction at the systems/policy, center and teacher level; the economics of early learning, including the impact of business practices on child outcomes; addressing the needs of homeless children in the early learning sector.
FAQs

**Addictions:** PHMC provides addiction treatment to adults and youth through a range of programs including outpatient, residential and partial hospitalization. R&E Group at PHMC houses the TRI Center on Addictions which conducts translational research to address the devastating effects of substance use disorder on individuals, families, and systems. Through this research, PHMC scientists developed the Risk and Needs Triage (RANT), a brief tool that is used by drug and DUI courts across the country to identify which clients are best suited to these types of diversion programs. The RANT classifies offenders into one of four quadrants based on their level of criminogenic risk and need and can be used by judges, probation and parole officers, attorneys, and other decision-makers make suitable correctional decisions. A number of studies and evaluations have examined the psychometric properties and predictive utility of the RANT. We are seeking a scholar who has an interest in working with our team to further validate the RANT tool using a large, nationally representative database that is housed at PHMC. We are seeking a Scholar with expertise in substance use disorder and/or criminal justice who also has strong quantitative/psychometric analysis skills.

**Hepatitis C:** PHMC affiliate National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC) provides technical assistance, evaluation, and systematic research to advance the profession of nursing. NNCC is particularly focusing its current research on improving the care continuum of Hepatitis C (HCV), to expand detection, treatment eligibility, and treatment completion in primary care, through the development of a patient-centered, clinical effectiveness research (CER) protocol. This line of research will harness stakeholder and patient engagement and build upon NNCC’s success with grant-implementation projects to study the relative effectiveness of different technical assistance programs to improve the HCV care continuum. We are seeking Scholars whose research interests include systems-change strategies to improve the delivery of HCV care and patient outcomes. The ideal Scholar would be knowledgeable about the landscape of research on the HCV care continuum.
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, including alignment of the proposed research with priority research focus areas described above. 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 do I apply?
Applications are due to PHMC by June 30, 2020. Applications should be submitted through 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 a current CV.

What should be included in the proposal?
A brief 2-page proposal should include a discussion of the background/significance of the research issue, the research questions you aim to address, and the methodology you intent to employ. We recognize that your specific research activities will likely be informed by the availability of existing datasets, current studies underway, and access to programs being delivered at PHMC. It is sufficient to discuss your proposal in general terms, or to identify different potential areas of focus that will be refined at the beginning of the Scholar residency.

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.