

Looking for Assistance on a Multiple Community-Engaged Health and Wellness Projects

The Seventh District Health and Wellness Initiative (HWI) is an existing collaborative partnership between residents, elected officials, health care providers, churches, and community organizations that work together to improve the health of residents of the east end of Richmond. The HWI coordinates several large- and small-scale events with partner organizations in order to develop a culture of wellness in the East End including educational lectures, fitness classes, and community events. The HWI is planning to improve and expand their reach and would benefit from assistance for the following projects:

Project 1- The Seventh District Health and Wellness Survey

What is the Project? The Seventh District Health and Wellness Survey is a community-based participatory research project that plans to successfully recruit 1,000 East End residents to complete an online health survey. Results from this data will guide future health and wellness strategies focused in the east end.

What are the Goals of the Project? (1) Assess the current state of health and access to health care in the Seventh District, (2) develop the foundation for long-term health-related collaborations in the East End, and (3) test the feasibility of using an internet-based survey to complete this project.

Who Cares and Why? The Seventh District Health and Wellness Initiative (HWI) wants to know what residents think about improving their health services. The HWI is a collaborative partnership between residents, elected officials, health care providers, and community organizations working to implement health strategies targeting in the East End.

What Help is Needed? We need help in the planning and execution of an upcoming “Datapalooza” event. This event will bring resident team members, community organization leaders, resident youth, and volunteer data analysts together to review the data and plan future steps for health and wellness in the east end. Specific needs/skills include:

- 1- Six individuals with some comfort using statistical packages/statistical programming languages (ie: SAS, SPSS or R) and at least one semester of graduate-level statistics. This is appropriate for a second-year graduate student or a first year student with prior research experience.
- 2- One person to assist in the organization and logistical support of the event. This is appropriate for a junior or senior or first-year graduate student.

What is the Time Commitment? The time frame to plan, execute and address immediate follow-up activities the event reflects a short time commitment (Fall 2014- August to December). It is likely that interested individuals may spend on average 5-10 hours per week developing this event. Attendance at occasional Saturday meetings is expected. This project will be done under the supervision of Dr. Elizabeth Prom-Wormley and is likely to fulfill practicum requirements. Long-term follow-up activities can be also be pursued for a student who may be interested in developing a research project. Long-term follow-up, including research, is likely to apply to Capstone project requirements.