



## WWAMI AHEC SCHOLARS Social Determinants of Health Project Instructions

The goal of this project is allow you to explore how your community is addressing a community health concern. Completing this project and presenting at poster session satisfies the Community/Experiential/Clinical component for one year. Through a stepwise process you will learn about a health challenge in your community and find out what is being done to address that issue by a local community group or organization. Next you research the topic to think about how this group or organization could take further steps to improve community health.

### **Step One: Identify your team**

This is designed to be a group project. Your AHEC representative will help you form your team of two to five students.

### **Step two: Identify a community group or organization**

Identify a community group or organization that is interested in improving health for underserved populations. Here are some examples:

|                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Food banks                   | Grassroots community groups         |
| Homeless shelters            | Local fire departments              |
| County Public Health Offices | YMCA or similar organizations       |
| Community Health Centers     | Senior centers                      |
| Hospitals                    | Churches or religious organizations |
| Public schools               | Area Health Education Centers       |

### **Step three: Arrange a Meeting**

Arrange a meeting with someone from that group or organization to explore what health issue they are working to address. In most cases you can find their email or phone number from their public website. Explain in your email or phone call that you are a health professional student at X university and that you would like to arrange a 30 minute interview to learn more about their group or organization and how they address health concerns in the community. Here is a sample note:

#### **Example email:**

*Dr. Ms. Smith,*

*I'm a Masters in public health student from the University of Washington. I'm writing to see if you would be interested in an in-person interview. The purpose of the interview would to learn more about your organization and the health issues you are trying to address through your activities. Further, with your permission, I plan to integrate the information I receive during the interview into an academic poster that highlights a local health topic.*



*If you have the time to speak with me, please send me a convenient time and where you would*

*like to meet. I anticipate the interview would likely last about a half an hour.*

*Thank you in advance for considering this request!*

*Sincerely,*

*John Hughes  
MPH Candidate University of Washington*

### **Step Four: The Interview**

At the interview, explain that you are a WWAMI AHEC Scholar, which means that you taking additional steps during your training to learn more about how to care for underserved populations. Ask the community partner if you may take notes during the interview. Please to the interviewee that the interview will be integrated into a poster that describes a community health issue, highlights the work this organization is doing and consider additional ways to address this health issue (if there was more time and resources available). Before proceeding, please ask the interviewee if they are ok using the information for a poster presentation and if they have any questions before you begin.

#### **Questions to ask**

1. Can you tell me about your mission?
2. What health issues do your programs or services to you offer address?
3. Are there and underserved populations that access your program or services?
4. What type of impact have you seen through your programs
5. What are some of the challenges your organization faces?
6. If you had more resources or time what are some ways you would expand your program or the services you offer?

**Be sure to thank your interviewee and offer to send them the slide of your poster once that has been completed.**

### **Step 5: Research**

Choose one health issue you identified in your community interview: \_\_\_\_\_

A. Use the following recourses to help better understand the health issue your community group or organization is working to address:

Census data: <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

County health rankings: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

Record local or county data that you found that describes this health issue here:



B. Use Google Scholar and other academic search engines to look for examples of programs that could potentially be modeled in the community you live to address the health concern you discussed in your interview. Find at least two papers.

**Paper one:**

What was the intervention/program?

What were the results of the intervention/program? From your perspective, did it have a positive impact in the community?

Could it work in your community?

**Paper two:**

What was the intervention/program?

What were the results of the intervention/program? From your perspective, did it have a positive impact in the community?

Could it work in your community?

***Step 6: Conclusions***

Please answer the following questions on your interview and the research you have done on this topic.

What is one intervention that could be done to further address the health issue you identified?

Please overview the components of the intervention.

What would be one goal of the program?



What organization(s) might carry this out?

What resources might be needed?

What would be some challenges to the intervention?

### ***Step 7: The Poster***

If you plan to present your work at a poster session you will need to develop an academic poster. Watch this tutorial to create a poster based on your research. Poster session counts as 10 CEC hours.

**Poster Title:**

**Name, School, Program, and WWAMI AHEC Scholars**

**Background:** In 3-5 bullets, describe your community and the health issue you are exploring and the community organization you spoke with

**Literature Review:** in 3-5 bullets list key points of the papers you read on the subject

**Community Health Intervention Design:** In 3-4 bullet points give an overview of the intervention you considered

**Conclusions:** In 3-4 bullets discuss possible outcomes, challenges and resources needed.