



Center for Public Health Systems Science

Brown School

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PRACTICUM OPPORTUNITY

Project: **Tobacco Control Best Practices
User Guides**

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Symplicity Job #27490

Project Overview

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office on Smoking and Health and the Center for Public Health Systems Science at Washington University in St. Louis are developing a set of user guides on topics covered in the 2014 *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs*. Aiming to help fill the gap between research and practice, the User Guides translate *Best Practices* guidelines into topic-specific, evidence-based strategies and practical guidance for states and communities working to decrease tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure.

To date, seven User Guides have been published: *Coalitions* (published 2009); *Youth Engagement* (published 2010); *Health Equity* (published 2015); *Program Infrastructure* (published 2017); *Health Communications* (published 2018); *Youth Engagement* (update, published 2019); *Cessation* (published 2020); as well as three additional guides published with the Tobacco Control Legal Consortium (now PHLC). Four more User Guide products are in development and additional guides are planned for the next four years.

Summer/Fall Semester 2021 Practicum

The practicum opportunity for this project involves assistance by an MPH student in **using literature review skills and qualitative interviews to collect and share guidance from communities implementing tobacco control best practices**. The student will compile a list of possible community examples to feature as case studies, interview representatives from the communities chosen, and draft a case study of the community's activities to include in the Best Practices User Guide. The following activities will need to be completed in coordination with the team's project coordinator and research assistants:

1. Review published articles, resources, and community examples to compile a list of communities that have exemplified the best practice
2. Present these findings to the team to guide decision making of which two community examples to feature
3. Create interview guides for each community's interview
4. Schedule and conduct interviews with the selected two communities
5. Draft a case study for each community, detailing their work, challenges, impact, and lessons learned
6. Other activities as needed

Practicum Learning Objectives

To attain experience in collecting information from partners, communicating public health information efficiently and effectively, and build an understanding of implementing tobacco control best practices and their impact on public health.

Practicum Deliverables

- Two published case studies in a Best Practices User Guide product
- A presentation to Center staff regarding the case study findings and lessons learned

Qualifications

1. Experience conducting literature reviews, collecting qualitative data, and synthesizing findings for a variety of audiences (e.g., academic and community)
2. Excellent verbal and written communication skills
3. Interest in implementing public health practices and policies at the state and community level, specifically regarding tobacco control

If interested, please contact **Rebecca Ballard**, rebeccaballard@wustl.edu.