



## Maryland Department of Health Student Internship Project

### PROGRAM QUALITY ASSESSMENT: EFFICACY, UTILIZATION AND EQUITY OF HEALTH INITIATIVES WITHIN THE MARYLAND TOBACCO QUITLINE (MDQL)

#### CONTACT

##### Maryland Department of Health

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#### SCHEDULE AND STIPEND

This project is being offered through the **University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State** (<http://mpower.maryland.edu>) – a formal collaboration between the University of Maryland, Baltimore and the University of Maryland, College Park.

The University of Maryland Strategic Partnership provides the funding for the program.

- The selected student(s) will receive \$5,500 - \$6,500 for a 400-hour project conducted over a 10-week period in Spring/Summer, mutually defined and agreed upon by the student(s) and mentor. The stipend will be determined based on the student's education enrollment: undergraduate program students will be paid \$5,500, and graduate degree program students will be paid \$6,500.
- At the end of the term, the student will write and/or present a short white paper on their completed project to the Joint Steering Council on/about September 1. The default schedule is from **May 28 – August 2\***.
- The student must be enrolled in the Fall 2024 semester to be considered a participant in the program.
- This project is expected to be delivered via a hybrid delivery approach consisting of remote activities online, through email, by phone, or by video conference, and may require some in-person activities. Travel to, and parking at MDH is the responsibility of the student. (MDH is located at state center in Baltimore City, accessible by car, bus, subway, or light rail.)

**\*Flexibilities to complete the 10 weeks of research may be considered on a case-by-case basis**

#### ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) School of Public Health students to include Master's of Public Health (MPH) students or doctoral degree (PhD) students

#### OR

University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy, or School of Medicine (medical degree (MD), or MD-Masters dual-degree) students



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**IDEAL CANDIDATE:** This project would be ideal for students with skills in research, analytics, writing; understanding of and experience with evaluation planning and implementation; general knowledge of public health and Social Determinants of Health; proficient in MS Suite, typing.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

**Purpose/Mission of Agency:** Because tobacco use is one of the leading cause of preventable death and chronic disease in Maryland, the Maryland Tobacco Quitline (MDQL) Program is seeking collaboration with the MDH's Quitline Vendor and ultimately to broaden the reach of and engagement with the MDQL. This will provide more avenues for tobacco users to connect and engage with services, this will increase the reach of the MDH and MDQL and ultimately, will lead to improved health outcomes for Maryland tobacco users.

**Project Purpose:** To investigate and then implement a quality improvement process to assess the Maryland Tobacco Quitline's operational equity.

The long-term goal is to improve health equity through assessment of data collection, program reach and impact using enrollment/outcome data.

**Project Goals:**

- Identify and reach priority nicotine and tobacco use populations in the State of Maryland. Secondly, the study will identify both MDQL access and use gaps by assessing the following:
  - Number of evidenced-based telephone cessation counseling sessions offered to *quitline* callers
  - Number of text-based services offered to *quitline* participants
  - Number of FDA approved Pharmacotherapies provided to *quitline* participants
  - Number of eReferrals using certified Electronic Health Records
  - Number of healthcare providers trained in clinic-based patient fax referral system Fax to Assist to refer patients to *quitline* services
  - Number of Behavioral Health clients engaged in smoking cessation interventions
  - Number of LGBTQ+ community members enrolled in tobacco cessation program
  - Number of pregnancy and postpartum incentive programs
  - Number of Medicaid benefit recipients served
  - Percentage of NRT sent within five business days to eligible residents

**Examples of work the intern could accomplish during the placement:**

- Monitor, collect and analyze data on specific priority populations from the MDQL vendor and compare to the reporting from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data.
- Determine and address data gaps toward the goal of ensuring there is a standard set of relevant health equity data that aligns with North American Quitline Consortium benchmarks.
- Develop collaborations with vendors to develop and implement strategies that address the specific needs within the indicated priority populations.

**Additional Resources and Information on the MDQL Program:**

- [https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/ohpetup/Pages/tob\\_quit.aspx](https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/ohpetup/Pages/tob_quit.aspx)
- <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/oralhealth/Pages/Quitline.aspx>



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- [E-Referrals to the MD Quitline during COVID-19](#): A retrospective descriptive analysis at the University of Maryland Medical System

**To apply for this position:**

Go to the [MPower-MDH Student Internship Application](#) and follow the instructions.

Applications will be accepted & reviewed on a *rolling basis*. The final deadline to apply is **11:59 PM on Sunday, February 25, 2024**.

If you have any questions, please contact Fiana Romero, [fromero@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:fromero@som.umaryland.edu) (Senior Program Specialist, Office of Student Research, UM School of Medicine).