

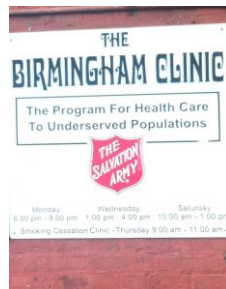


# Connections4Health

## Community Health Fellowship

### Now Accepting Applications for the Spring Session!

- Connections4Health Fellows work with underserved people in both health clinics and public settings to improve the social and environmental factors that negatively impact their health.
- Placement site locations: Birmingham Free Clinic or Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
- Become part of the movement that goes beyond treatment rooms walls to make our health care system more integrated and holistic.
- Join a group of like-minded students for reflection sessions and training sessions twice a month.
- Volunteer 4-5 hours of your time each week to make a difference in the Pittsburgh community while you're here! (**Spring session: January 15<sup>th</sup> – April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018**)



**Applications due October 27th, 2017 by 5pm**

Questions?

Email [mbowersox@southwestahec.org](mailto:mbowersox@southwestahec.org)  
with "Community Health Fellowship" in subject line

# ABOUT CONNECTIONS4HEALTH PLACEMENT SITES

Connections4Health is driven by the belief that it takes a community coming together to meet the needs of underserved people. This belief is carried out by building and nurturing collaborations and partnerships with local organizations or programs with like-minded goals and people. Some partnerships are placement sites, while others are programs that, as a Fellow, you will be using as a resource when working to meet the needs of the patients and patrons you meet.

Each Fellowship placement site has its own identity, ways of operating, and population it serves. While there are undeniable overlaps among sites given the shared mission fostering stronger and healthier communities, there are notable differences as to how C4H integrates into a clinic setting compared to how and who we help in a more public setting like the library. Regardless of placement site, however, our mission remains the same: To improve the health of underserved peoples in our region by empowering them to target the social, environmental, and financial factors that influence their physical and mental health. Below outlines some of the characteristics of C4H placement sites.

*As a Connections4Health Fellow, you become part of the overall team at your placement site, and will provide social service resources to individuals who are vulnerable due to their socioeconomic and possible addiction and/or mental health challenges, but with an integrated focus on continuity, prevention and education. Our goal is to provide unbiased care with dignity, compassion and understanding to all who may be in need.*

## **Birmingham Free Clinic**

Salvation Army-South Side Complex  
44 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
Phone: 412-692-4706 or 412-481-7900 ext. 281

The Birmingham Free Clinic was established in 1994 and is operated by the Program for Health Care to Underserved Populations (PHCUP). It is housed within, and partnered with, the Salvation Army South Side building complex.

*Our mission is to facilitate, provide and improve access to high-quality care among those in need through community partnerships, volunteerism, service learning and advocacy.*

A significant segment of our patient population are housed individuals who are working class, but are ineligible for State Medicaid programs, do not receive employee health benefits, or have recently lost benefits due to unemployment. However many patients still suffer from substance addiction, unemployment, and homelessness. Some patients have underlying mental illness, and suffer from maladies complicated by homelessness, lack of health insurance, health education and continuity of care. Patients' common thread is lack of a fixed, trusted source of basic health care. At Birmingham, we work to provide quality, compassionate and integrated care with dignity to all persons seeking our services!

### **Clinic Operations:**

Four days per week the clinic operates on a walk-in (no appointment) system. All patients are seen in the order that they arrive, unless one of our staff or clinicians needs to triage a patient back appropriately. Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday clinics are open to the general public. The Friday clinic sessions are primarily reserved for those patients who are housed in the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center and the Wednesday morning session is by referral only.

### **Clinic Staff:**

Each clinic is run by a nurse manager, a medical assistant and one AmeriCorps National Service Member. All clinicians (physicians In addition, medical, pharmacy, nursing, undergraduate and other students volunteer and rotate through as part of a curriculum option. residents or interns, a volunteer pharmacist and a volunteer physician.

### **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Downtown & Business**

612 Smithfield Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Phone: 412-281-7141

Established in 1895 by Andrew Carnegie and the City of Pittsburgh, the libraries serve as a hub that fosters the growth and vitality of our region by hosting more than 2.9 million visitors each year. The Downtown & Business location hosts approximately 320,000 visitors each year at its location alone. CLP continues to build community, enable learning and provide equal access for residents of all abilities, skills and backgrounds.

*Through Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the people of our region will develop the literacies and connections that support individual achievement and strengthen the power of community.*

Libraries are in a unique position to offer help to those looking for resources to address their social health needs, and Downtown & Business is a main hub for many living in Pittsburgh. Library staff and C4H Fellows work with a broad spectrum of patrons – socioeconomic level, life experience, and also in terms of health - both physical health and mental health. During winter months, libraries also become a safe, warm space for many homeless to visit during the day, opening an opportunity to address one of the largest barriers to health.

### **Library Operations:**

CLP Downtown & Business is open six days per week, with Connections4Health currently on-site three of those days. Days and times were strategically chosen so that fellows are on-site during the libraries busiest times in an effort to reach the most people in need. For example, the Wednesday afternoon C4H shift overlaps with the library's Family Work and Play program, providing an opportunity to meet with parents who may be in need of resources for themselves or their children but generally have little to no time to focus on their social health needs. Fellows receive referrals from library staff, and typically have one to three people scheduled for appointments during a given shift.

### **Library Staff:**

Each library is run by a number of librarians, security staff, and volunteers. At Downtown & Business the library also employs a Social Services Lead.

*Overall, it is important to remember that we are here to serve the community and this will be our primary focus, especially with regard to respecting dignity, privacy and lifestyle decisions.*

## Connections4Health Community Health Fellowship Frequently Asked Questions:

### What will I spend my 3-4.5 hours doing each week?

**3 hours per week:** Each fellow will be assigned one shift to attend each week. Depending on placement site, during their shift fellows:

- Engage patients in clinic waiting rooms to tell them about the services Connections4Health offers
- Receive referrals from Carnegie Library staff, community partners, or clinic staff
- Work one-on-one with underserved persons to understand their situation and needs
- Find and connect people with resources by creating an action plan they can follow
- Follow-up with people you worked with in prior weeks
- Track each encounter and the associated outcome

**30 minutes of Database Work:** The database is used by fellows to make appropriate referrals to organizations or agencies. As organizations are constantly changing, emerging or falling through, fellows are tasked with calling one organization each week to update the entry in the database. This ensures that the database is as comprehensive as possible and that all of the information is accurate.

**1 Hour Reflective/Training Session (every other week):** The reflection sessions are an opportunity for fellows to debrief, share stories, express concerns or seek advice. They will also be complimented by mini training sessions on topics of interest to the fellows, such as poverty, health law, housing resources, the Affordable Care Act, etc.

### What training will I undergo to ensure I am prepared?

There are two, 3-hour mandatory orientation/training sessions held before you start the first shift at your placement site. The training sessions are meant to bring new fellows up to speed on the Connections4Health philosophy, how to operate the help desk, how to update the database, how to speak with clinic patients or library patrons respectfully and ask the pertinent, appropriate questions. New fellows also engage with returning fellows to create a cohesive Connections4Health team.

### Is this fellowship paid?

No, unfortunately we do not have the funds to pay our fellows.

### What if I cannot commit to any of the allotted times?

If you cannot commit to a clinic or library shift, you will not be eligible for the fellowship. These are the times the program operates at the placement sites, so we do not have flexibility in that part of the Connections4Health requirement.

### What if I cannot make a training session?

The training sessions are **critical** to your training and effectiveness as a fellow and have been carefully constructed to prepare you for your shifts. If you are unable to make a training session please mark that on your application and we will see if we can accommodate you.

### How can I benefit from this fellowship?

Simply put, you will be directly helping our community members address concerns that are often critical, acute and prohibit underserved people from being able to adequately focus on their health and well-being. These include things such as helping individuals find emergency food assistance, housing, legal help, employment

opportunities or training, and a host of other resources. **You WILL be directly impacting people's lives!** This is also a great opportunity to gain experience working with underserved populations, meet like-minded clinician and student volunteers, strengthen communication skills, gain knowledge of community health centers, poverty, social determinants of health and gain specific, tangible skills such as motivational interviewing and using tools to increase health literacy for patients through the reflection sessions twice a month.

**What is the application timeline?\***

Application due: October 27, 2017 by 5pm

Interviews for selected candidates: November 2 – November 13, 2017

All applicants notified of their status by: December 1, 2017

\*Dates subject to change as needed

**What makes a strong fellowship candidate?**

We are looking for students who are enthusiastic about the opportunity, proactive and self-directed, organized and professional, who demonstrate a commitment to service and to underserved populations, who are flexible and able to go with the flow, who are eager to make a difference, are empathetic, who have strong oral and written communication skills and most importantly, who want to have an impact on people's lives. We recognize that it can be intimidating to engage patients in a clinic or public setting, so strong candidates will also be willing to work outside their comfort zone and be excited about problem solving with patients/patrons. We believe that health status is intimately intertwined with all other aspects of our lives and are eager to provide people with the best health care we can.

**Submit your application by email to**

[mbowersox@southwestahec.org](mailto:mbowersox@southwestahec.org)

**by October 27<sup>th</sup> at 5pm with “Community Health Fellowship” in the subject line.**

## Connections4Health Community Health Fellowship Application

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please complete the following application and email it to [mbowersox@southwestahec.org](mailto:mbowersox@southwestahec.org) by October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 5pm. Please create a single document that includes: Part 1: applicant information; Part 2: short essays and Part 3: a one page resume. Please save your application document as Last Name\_First Name\_C4H. It can be submitted as a PDF or word document.

### PART ONE: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Middle) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Phone you can most quickly be reached at \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M F

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you at least 18 years of age? (Circle one)                      Yes      No

Are you authorized to work in the U.S.?                              Yes      No

Have you ever been convicted of or pled guilty to a criminal offense?    Yes      No  
If "yes" please explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you require any physical accommodations that should be considered when selecting a volunteer assignment?    Yes      No  
If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

Please list your current year and area of study below: School/Year/Major(s)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you speak Spanish fluently?    Yes      No

Please check your availability. These are the days and times that Connections4Health operates at different placement sites. You must be able to commit to the time slots that you select for the entire semester (**Jan. 15 – Apr. 21, 2018**). **Please check all that apply.** You will only be assigned one shift per week.

Fellowship Shift Schedule		Yes	No
<b>Monday</b>	2:30pm-5:30pm		
<b>Monday</b>	5:30pm-8:30pm		
<b>Tuesday</b>	1:00pm-4:00pm		
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30am-11:30am		
<b>Wednesday</b>	12:30pm-3:30pm		
<b>Wednesday</b>	2:00pm-5:00pm		
<b>Thursday</b>	1:00pm-4:00pm		
<b>Friday</b>	2:00pm-5:00pm		
<b>Saturday</b>	9:30am-12:30pm		

**Training sessions** - Please circle if you are able to attend the following training sessions (both are mandatory!):

Tuesday, January 9, 5:30-8:30pm	Yes	No
Wednesday, January 10, 5:30-8:30pm	Yes	No

**REFERENCES - List 2 references (other than family members)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone or email \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship and how long known \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone or email \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship and how long known \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT’S STATEMENT AND AUTHORIZATION**

I hereby affirm that the information provided on this application (and accompanying paperwork and resume, if any) is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I also agree that any falsified information or significant omission may disqualify me from further consideration for fellowship and may be considered justification for dismissal at a later date.

I authorize a thorough investigation of my past employment and activities, agree to cooperate in such information, and release from all liability or responsibility all persons and organizations requesting or supplying such information. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I further authorize any physician or hospital to release any information that may be necessary to determine my ability to perform the essential functions of the volunteer position for which I am being considered or any future volunteer position in the event that I am selected as a fellow.

I understand that a fellowship offer will be conditioned upon my completion of the application and interview, to the satisfaction of the Connections4Health Program. I understand that my fellowship position is terminable-at-will and that this application is not and is not intended to be, a contract for continued volunteer service.

I agree to abide by all Connections4Health, Birmingham Free Clinic, and Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh policies and procedures. I acknowledge the right of Connections4Health to change, interpret, add or withdraw policies, benefits, or terms and conditions of volunteer service at its discretion, with or without prior notice to any volunteer. I hereby release Connections4Health, Birmingham Free Clinic, and Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and any and all of my references and former employers from any liability for any damages due to releasing information regarding me.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_(mm/dd/yy)

**PART TWO: SHORT ESSAYS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please answer the following questions. Attach these essays to Part 1 of your application.

1. Explain why you are interested in becoming a Connections4Health Community Health Fellow (350 word maximum).
2. Describe a challenging situation in your life and how you responded (150 word maximum).
3. Describe a time when you identified a social injustice and took action to make a change. What motivated you to act and what did you gain from the experience? (150 word maximum)