NIOSH/CDC Fellow training in occupational epidemiologic research, occupational public health practice, and the communication of occupational public health information.

Assignment Summary

The assignment is to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Division of Respiratory Disease Studies, Surveillance Branch, Public Health Surveillance Team, State-based Surveillance Activities Project in Morgantown, West Virginia, as a Regular Fellow Trainee. The CDC Regular Fellow training program at NIOSH supports the training of individuals in occupational epidemiologic research, occupational public health practice, and the communication of occupational public health information. Fellow activities will include working with epidemiologists, occupational physicians, industrial hygienists, other NIOSH staff, and State partners to assess and address knowledge gaps to improve the capacity for states to conduct surveillance for WRA and/or silicosis. The Fellow will analyze state-based occupational sentinel surveillance data collected by State partners and assess trends and risk factors associated with work-related asthma (WRA) and silicosis for various populations, exposures, and case characteristics; participate in the development and completion of a project, including literature review, data analysis, report writing, and development of recommendations for work-related asthma and/or silicosis surveillance and prevention efforts. Results and interpretations will be submitted for presentation and/or for publication either as a NIOSH publication or product and/or in peer-reviewed journals. Additional responsibilities include research projects of interest identified by the Fellow in concert with Branch staff.

Individuals are expected to work independently at times, interact with state partners on a regular basis, and prepare presentations to demonstrate knowledge of issues, data results, and recommendations to a larger team to facilitate joint understanding of data results and interpretations. This will be followed by preparing a written report(s) or products for publication. Report findings and recommendations are anticipated to influence policy makers, employers, workers and other stakeholders.
Upon completion of the fellowship, the Fellow will have: 1) received hands-on experience and training in occupational public health surveillance methods at the national and state level; 2) become well-versed in the issues affecting the occupational public health infrastructure; and 3) contributed to an activity of national importance related to the mission of CDC/NIOSH.

**Specific Tasks**

The incumbent will become familiar with Surveillance Branch and State partner WRA and silicosis activities. Examples of tasks include 1) compile, edit, summarize, and conduct descriptive and epidemiologic analysis of reported case data state-based surveillance data using SAS and Microsoft® Office software package (Word, Excel, PowerPoint); maintaining and managing the aggregated database; 2) summarizing activities of state partners on a monthly basis; compiling and maintaining a database of state-produced materials, publications, state-based surveillance and other material concerning topics related to WRA and silicosis; 3) assisting with developing dissemination strategies for the state-data and products; 4) conducting literature searches; and 5) assisting with the development and publication of peer-reviewed journal articles and NIOSH products to aid in building state partner capacity for WRA and silicosis surveillance.

**Qualifications of the Fellow**

The applicant should have a Masters degree in Public Health or related field. Some knowledge of occupational/environmental health is helpful. Skilled use of SAS® and Microsoft® Office software (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) is essential for conducting state-based surveillance data analysis.

**Salary level**

The basic stipend pay ranges for CDC Regular Fellows correspond to those listed on the General Schedule (GS) pay chart, and is based on education and experience of the Fellow. For Fellows with master’s degree (or equivalent) the stipend is at GS-7 step 1 level ($38,790).

**Duration of assignment**

One year, extendable to three years.