

Government Relations

Government Relations interns have the opportunity to learn about the legislative process, public health and the intersection of the public policy process and public health practice and advocacy. APHA's Government Relations department serves APHA members and affiliated state public health associations by promoting important public health messages to the public and to policy-makers in local, state and federal governments. APHA members are educated and informed about important and emerging legislative public health issues and are mobilized to take action at the local, state, and federal level.

The department is responsible for providing resources and support needed for members and Affiliates to be effective public health advocates -- Action Alerts, fact sheets, background information and data, APHA policies, legislative updates, and lists of coalition partners; representing members and Affiliates on Capitol Hill with federal legislators by testifying, lobbying, holding educational briefings, and writing letters on key issues; conducting policy analysis; chairing coalitions and working in partnership with a broad range of interests to help educate the public and policymakers on public health issues; and assuring the development and implementation of national, state and local policies that promote, protect, and enhance the public's health.

The Government Relations internship provides students with a multifaceted opportunity to learn about the legislative process, public health, and the intersection of the public policy process and public health practice and advocacy. The intern will provide the government relations and grassroots advocacy staff with assistance in research, on-going advocacy initiatives, coalition building, and the development of fact sheets, action alerts, letters to Congress and federal agencies, and other advocacy materials. The intern will have the opportunity to attend Congressional hearings, coalition meetings, and accompany government relations staff on lobby visits to Members of Congress and their staff. The intern will be responsible for reporting on the progress of legislative proposals, and creating advocacy materials for distribution to Congress and posting on the APHA Web site. The intern will also have the opportunity to attend coalition meetings, meet with APHA staff to learn about public health, and work with the state public health associations on grassroots activities.

At the end of the internship period, we hope that the intern will have learned much about public health and public policy. The intern will have produced numerous fact sheets, action alerts, legislative tracking charts, comparative analyses of legislative proposals, and other materials that address topics in APHA priority areas.