EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – ASSISTANT PROJECT SCIENTIST

The Program in Public Health, University of California, Irvine, a member of the Orange County Partnerships to Improve Community Health (OC-PICH) seeks an experienced Assistant Project Scientist to assist in the evaluation of interventions to reduce chronic diseases in target populations within the region.

Background information on the Project

In September 2014 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention presented $49.3 million to 39 awardees around the United States with Partnership to Improve Community Health Grant (PICH). Awardees proposed specific activities to address the leading risk factors for major causes of death and disability in the United States, including tobacco use, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity. The national recipients included 13 large cities/urban communities, 20 small cities/counties, and 6 tribal organizations. Community Action Partnership of Orange County was the sole awardee in Orange County, CA. CAPOC received $4.1 million of PICH grant funds to be used over 3 years regarding policy and system changes in healthy beverage and food consumption, increased physical activity, and media communications strategy. OC-PICH is committed to policy systems and environmental change that improves the community’s access to healthier eating options, increased tap water consumption, and increasing active transportation in the cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, and Santa Ana. In order to reach our goals of accessing 75% of the tri-city population and implementing effective policy changes, CAPOC has funded 10 partners including 3 cities, 4 non-profits, the Department of Education, and 2 evaluators, including the Program in Public Health at UC Irvine. For additional information about OC-PICH and the partners, please visit: http://www.ocpich.org.

Federal Award Identification Number (Grant Number): 1U58DP005861-01

Specific Responsibilities
Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) use evidence and practice-based strategies to create or strengthen healthy environments that make it easier for people to make healthy choices and take charge of their health. PICH maximizes public health impact in a sustainable way by creating, updating, and implementing Policy, Systems and Environmental (PSE) changes within the targeted communities. OC-PICH, which includes 11 funded agencies, will focus on 3 targeted strategies: increase access and consumption of healthy foods and beverages; increase access to safe places to be active; and improve media/communications related to CDC approved activities/strategies for community residents (safe biking/walking campaign, increase water consumption campaign, etc.). All strategies will have an evaluation component. Sub-grantees will provide their evaluation information (surveys, results, etc.) for OC-PICH/CDC funded projects to CAPOC and to specific program evaluation sub-grantees. The project is required to reach 75% (623,757) of the residents in the cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, and Santa Ana by September 2017.

Under the supervision of Dr. Oladele A. Ogunseitan, the project scientist will have an active role in the following, including hands-on work and supervision of student assistants:

1. **Project Period Objective (PPO) – Nutrition**

   **Increase the number of K-12 schools with improved school local procurement policies and practices:**
   
   **Farm to Institution** – The Coalition will expand farm to institutions programs in Anaheim, Garden Grove, and Santa Ana. Implementing Farm to School within the program’s jurisdiction will create access to healthy, local food options for community residents and priority populations. UCI’s activities for this strategy include:
   
   - Support for increased access to healthy local produce at school districts in collaboration with Orange County Food Access Coalition (OCFAC); and
   - Support as it relates to the Farm to Institution strategy.

   **Increase the number of jurisdictions with strategies to incorporate land/vendor use agreements to improve access to fresh, local produce and strategies to incorporate free/low-cost beverage options, specifically water, to community residents:**
   
   **Community Garden** - The Coalition will expand community, school, and home gardens and distribution of grown fresh produce to the larger community. The achievement of our activities will create land use policies that will allow community members access to healthy foods. UCI’s activities for this strategy include:
   
   - Support as it relates to the Community Garden strategy.

   **Water Access** - Discourage consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages/encourage consumption of water, specifically tap water, in public spaces. UCI’s activities for this strategy include:
   
   - Support as it relates to implementation of Rethink Your Drink/Water campaigns; and
• Support as it relates to Water Access.

2. Project Period Objective (PPO) – Physical Activity

Increase the number of K-12 schools ensuring students receive moderate to vigorous state-required physical activity minutes.
Physical Activity Opportunities – Support the CA State law that mandates every student needs to receive 200 minutes of physical education every 10 school days in elementary schools and 400 minutes every 10 school days in secondary schools. AHOC will support the development and implementation of physical activity policies in the targeted school districts. The Coalition will focus on one school district, while still providing technical assistance to the other districts. UCI’s activities for this strategy include:
• Support OC PICH as needed; and
• Assist with evaluation at before, during, and after sites (Safe Routes to School), as needed.

Increase the number of jurisdictions with improved policies and physical environments related to active transportation.
Active Transportation – Includes enhancing and supporting infrastructure for bicycle and pedestrian plans, and enhancing traffic safety in areas where persons are engaged in physical activity;
• Evaluation - collect, tabulate, and interpret data related to active transportation in 1 target city (deliverable – quarterly program/progress report);
• Manage implementation of standardized observation processes such as the System for Observing Play and Recreation in Communities (SOPARC), population survey questionnaires, satellite imagery, and/or installation and monitoring of equipment for data collection (deliverable – active transportation monitoring protocols, instrument, and devices); and
• Draft reports for review of data collection (deliverable – summary of results).

3. Project Period Objective (PPO) – Media and Communications

Increase the number of jurisdictions with media and communications supporting community health activities.
Media/Communications – Involves communicating our partnerships and PSE strategies to the public. The overall communication plan will utilize mixed communication methods to target all areas of OC-PICH jurisdiction in communicating our health campaigns. CAPOC will house the communications at their site.
• Provide support for the development of a social media campaigns, as well as other mixed communication methods.

Qualifications – The successful candidate will have earned a graduate degree in public health or a related discipline. Candidates with the following characteristics will have an
advantage: knowledge of program evaluation methods, survey methods, active transportation assessments, and chronic disease prevention, public health planning, and policy.

Applicants should complete an online application profile at: https://recruit.ap.uci.edu/apply/JPF02931

Start Date – August 1, 2015

Salary – Commensurate with experience.

The University of California, Irvine is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer advancing inclusive excellence. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status, or other protected categories covered by the UC nondiscrimination policy.