



**KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**PROJECT NAME:** Tackling Recommendations from Kent County Lead Taskforce  
**SEMESTER:** Spring/Summer 2019  
**PRECEPTOR:** Cassie Kobler

**DESCRIPTION:** The Kent County Community Health Advisory Committee (CHAC) has produced a strategic plan for accomplishing the recommendations of the Board of Commission's Lead Task Force. The strategic plan calls upon the Kent County Health Department to take the lead on a number of objectives. This internship project will assist in implementing some of the recommendations, specifically those recommendations around community awareness, and communications. The intern will: review Lead and Lead Task Force Recommendations, participate in the development of a lead knowledge community assessment, connect with communities most impacted by lead exposure, and assist with the coordination of community meetings, focus groups and creation of a literature review. The intern may support other Lead Task Force projects/assignments as needed.

**IMPORTANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH:** Since 2000, Kent County, and the entire state of Michigan, has experienced a substantial decline in the number of children poisoned by lead--by more than 90% in Kent County. However, beginning in 2014, the numbers and percentages of Kent County lead-poisoned children began to rise again. By 2015, the county was the third worst in Michigan for its percentage of children with elevated blood levels. The culprit is not water, but lead paint and soil in older homes. The Kent County Lead Task Force released its report identifying (4) recommendations: public education, policy, risk identification and elimination, and health care.

**APPLICABLE ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES:**

- Inform, educate, and empower
- Mobilize community partnerships
- Link people to health services

**PROJECT DELIVERABLES:**

- Development of a lead knowledge community assessment
- Literature Review that provides general information and resources related to Lead Based paint
- Communications (talking points, brief, article, statement, etc.) for discussing lead exposure in Kent County through a health equity lens.
- Weekly Work Logs/Time Tracking
- Presentation at the Student Research Day

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Students applying for this internship must be enrolled in a bachelor's degree program. Computer proficiency required, Spanish language experience desired.

**SKILLS:** The student selected for this internship opportunity should expect to develop public health skills and competencies in the following categories:

**PLANNING/ORGANIZATION/COMMUNICATION**

- Generate ideas
- Speak effectively to individuals
- Speak effectively to groups
- Identify problems and needs

- Think on your feet
- Make and keep a schedule
- Schedule/coordinate operations
- Define, explain, interpret
- Summarize/write clearly and concisely
- Use media to present ideas creatively
- Critique, edit, proofread
- Write creatively

#### DETAIL/FOLLOW THROUGH

- Follow through on plans
- Handle many tasks at once
- Work under pressure
- Get projects done on time
- Detail oriented
- Be orderly/organized

#### INTERPERSONAL

- Relate well to public
- Listen/understand feelings of others
- Work well on a team
- Deal patiently with difficult people
- Accept differing opinions
- Express feelings appropriately
- Advise/counsel/encourage
- Use tact, diplomacy, discretion

#### RESEARCH/ INVESTIGATION/ TECHNICAL

- Identify appropriate information sources
- Survey, interview, gather information
- Organize information
- Analyze information