

Outreach and Policy Research Intern

About EHP: The Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project (EHP) is a nonprofit public health organization that assists and supports residents of Southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond who believe their health has been, or could be, impacted by unconventional oil and gas development (UOGD or “fracking”). To pursue this mission, EHP’s activities include:

- Conducting health assessments of residents near UOGD activities;
- Assisting residents with air monitoring to provide an understanding of environmental contaminants that may impact health;
- Analyzing collected emissions and health assessment data together to identify correlations that suggest hypotheses for further academic research;
- Developing resources for residents to reduce psycho-social impacts, especially stress, that increase with the growth of UOGD activities nearby; and
- Organizing to raise PA health care professional awareness of UOGD-related health impacts and to promote appropriate health-protective policies.

To accomplish these activities, EHP has assembled a multidisciplinary team of health care professionals, community service professionals, and public health scientists. EHP’s main office is located in McMurray, PA, about 20 miles south of Pittsburgh.

Position overview:

1. EHP is engaged in recruiting community members to enlist in a web-based UOGD health effects registry and response system. The intern would serve on EHP’s team that will conduct outreach to regional and national community-based organizations with membership or other contact with residents whose health may be impacted by UOGD. Once organizations agree to assist with enrolling registry participants, the intern will help design and disseminate materials that can be used for such recruitment.
2. EHP sees a need to promote appropriate health-protective policies at the local, state, and regional level. The intern will conduct research on existing public policies in PA and other states with significant UOGD activity to assist EHP in developing policy recommendations.
3. EHP is a resource center for information related to UOGD activities. The intern will assist with outreach activities such as recruiting attendance, arranging facilities, and possibly presenting his/her work related to either of the topics described in #1 or #2 above.

Knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Strong verbal and written communication skills to support the recruitment of participation in the health registry, outreach, and programming;
- Excellent research and analysis skills, especially applied to public policy development;
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team with other EHP members;
- Ability to manage multiple projects in a fast-paced environment; and
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office.

Hours: Flexible hours M-F, 8am – 5pm; possible evening and weekend events.