

**Equitable Care Collaborative:
Behavioral Health Internship Pipeline Program (BHIPP)
Program Overview**

The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (MassLeague) is administering the Equitable Care Collaborative's Behavioral Health Internship Pipeline Program (BHIPP) in partnership with Mass General Brigham (MGB). The goal of this program is to expand the provider pipeline to attract diverse, qualified, and culturally competent Social Workers, Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Psychologists in their final year of their graduate program by providing paid field placements in community health centers (CHC). Each awarded student intern will receive a stipend for accepting placement within a CHC and will participate in learning community sessions, inclusive of a final project presentation focused on equitable care.

Summary

The Behavioral Health Internship Pipeline Program (BHIPP) aims to create a pipeline targeted at a diverse population of behavioral health providers who are completing their graduate degrees in preparation for becoming a licensed social worker, licensed mental health counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, or psychologist. This program intends to root behavioral health program graduates in community health center (CHC) settings early in their careers. As a part of this program, the MassLeague will partner with CHCs to support students prior to graduation via a \$15,000 paid internship, learning community participation, and a final project presentation.

In year one of this program, BHIPP supported eight student interns. We see an urgent need to support CHCs in creating more diverse BH capacity and with the diversity of the first cohort, the response of the interns who are participating, and feedback from the CHCs telling us that we are moving in the right direction, BHIPP will support twelve student interns in year two of this program. Each awarded student intern will receive \$15,000 for their internship and demonstrated commitment to community health. Students eligible to be selected for this program will be entering their final year of their graduate program with the intention to become licensed in social work, mental health counseling, marriage and family therapy, or psychology. **Underrepresented students representing a diverse population, including but not limited to, racial/ethnic minorities (e.g., Black or African American, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Native American), individuals from rural communities, and students who are linguistically diverse are encouraged to apply.**

Under this second application cycle, the MassLeague is inviting CHCs with available preceptors to nominate selected student interns to apply for these funds that will support the students to complete their internship, participate in six learning community sessions, and complete a final project presentation.

Application guidelines are provided within this document.

Eligibility

Eligible Organizations

BHIPP is available to all MassLeague CHC members with available preceptors and student interns who will be in their final year of their Master's or Doctoral program for an eligible licensure type and will begin their internship at the CHC in September 2022 (or sooner).

Eligible Student Types

Social Workers
Mental Health Counselors
Marriage and Family Therapists
Doctoral Psychology Students

Administrative Requirements

For the student interns selected, funds will be paid directly to the CHC to be disbursed to the student. The MassLeague will provide TA to CHCs to assist in the mechanism of distributing funds to the interns. This payment will include \$15,000 per student intern to support the completion of their internship. The MassLeague does not provide specific tax advice and the Participant should anticipate the need to seek independent tax advice to determine the tax status of the stipend. No penalties will be applied if the student intern leaves their internship.

Learning Community

A total of six learning community sessions will take place over the course of their internship. Topics covered in four of the sessions will include health equity, behavioral health integration, leadership development, and the community health center movement. These learning community sessions will be an interactive experience composed of all twelve BHIPP awardees and will not disrupt any internship time at the CHC. The final two sessions will consist of final project presentations. Each student will be responsible for completing a 15-20-minute presentation encapsulating what they have learned in relation to equitable care over the course of the learning community and internship at their CHC. The MassLeague will provide direct project guidance to each student intern.

Instructions

CHCs will complete a Cover Sheet providing information about the eligible student interns they wish to have considered for this funding. Following their identification of the student intern(s), the CHC will need to provide the name, contact information, and a summary of the selected student's strengths and how they will support behavioral health care delivery for the diverse and/or rural population of patients at their health center and/or help create a more diverse behavioral health workforce. CHCs may nominate as many student interns as they would like; however, the ECC will only award a maximum of two applicants per CHC. A total of twelve student interns will be awarded in the second year of this program. Completed Cover Sheets must be received by **May 27, 2022, 5:00PM EST**.

Following receipt of the completed Cover Sheet(s), the MassLeague will contact the nominated interns and provide them with their formal Application.

Applications will be reviewed by a diverse external review committee that will assist in making final award decisions. Application review criteria will include demonstrated interest and commitment to community health, understanding and vision of equitable care, qualifications of the selected student intern, and strength of CHCs Cover Sheet. Funding decisions will be based on review rankings as well as on the need to ensure that awards represent a diverse demographic, including geographic distribution within Massachusetts. Applications must be complete and submitted by the deadline in order to be reviewed.

Application Submission

CHC Cover Sheets must be submitted by email in PDF format to mschmitt@massleague.org by **May 27, 2022, 5:00PM EST**. The organization's CEO/Executive Director or equivalent and Behavioral Health Director must sign the Cover Sheet for the submission to be considered complete.

Applications must be submitted by email from selected student interns in PDF format to mschmitt@massleague.org by **June 24, 2022, 5:00PM EST**. The MassLeague will work directly with the student intern during this phase of the application process.