



# California Student/Resident Experiences in Community Health (*Cal-SEARCH*)

## Frequently Asked Questions for Sites

*Q. How do I apply?*

A. You must fill out an online application, located on the Cal-SEARCH website at: <http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/hwdd/cal-search/>. Once your application is received you will be notified within 2 – 4 weeks if your site is approved.

*Q. How do I know if my site is eligible to apply?*

A. Your site must be located in a HPSA (Health Professions Shortage Area) or MUA (Medically Underserved Area) in order to participate in Cal-SEARCH.

*Q. There are multiple sites within my organization. Do they each need to apply?*

A. Yes. Individual sites within an organization must each fill out an application. This ensures that each site's unique information can be used to make the best match possible.

*Q. Are we expected to provide housing or transportation?*

A. Students/residents are responsible for their own housing and transportation. However, if you can provide assistance with housing and/or transportation, please note that on your application.

*Q. Is there a stipend available for hosting a student/resident?*

A. Yes. Sites hosting a student/resident will receive \$1000 per student/resident at the end of the rotation, once all requirements are met.

*Are there a minimum number of hours required?*

A. Students/residents selected to participate in Cal-SEARCH are required to spend at least 80 hours on their clinical rotation. These hours are in addition to the community project.

*Q. How long are the rotations?*

A. Rotations are from 4 – 8 weeks. The community project can be developed and implemented either during or immediately after the rotation. Community project time is in addition to the rotation.

*Q. What is the Community Project?*

A. All Cal-SEARCH participants are required to develop and implement a community project based on a local population health issue and to submit a report once the project is complete. Projects are developed with the support of the clinic mentor, who will also review and sign off on the student/resident's community project report.

*Q. What types of students are eligible?*

Students/residents must be enrolled in one of the following programs in order to be eligible to apply:

- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Ob/GYN
- Dental Hygiene
- Dentistry
- Nurse Practitioner
- Physician Assistant

The following additional disciplines are encouraged to apply and will be considered as space is available:

- Certified Nurse-Midwives
- Clinical Psychologists
- Clinical Social Workers
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Psychiatric Nurse Specialist
- Psychiatry

*Q. Can I select the type of student I will accept?*

A. Yes, sites can indicate on their application whether they prefer a student or resident. Sites are encouraged to be flexible regarding the type of student they will accept in order to increase their chances of hosting a student.

*Q. How are students/residents matched?*

A. Information from both student and site applications is used to find a site that matches both the student's and site's specific criteria (i.e. geographic location, services offered, student academic background).

*Q. What are the responsibilities of the Preceptors and Mentors?*

- Each site must identify staff willing to function as a preceptor or mentor for each student.
- A preceptor is responsible for ensuring that the student is exposed to the Cal-SEARCH learning objectives.
- The mentor offers support and encouragement as well as oversees the community project.
- The preceptor must also sign the participant time sheet.
- Mentors sign off on the community project report.
- A single staff person can function as both preceptor and mentor.
- Both the preceptor and mentor must also attend a pre-rotation orientation and complete a post rotation survey.

*Q. Can the same staff person be both the Preceptors and Mentors?*

A. Yes.

*Q. What are the Cal-SEARCH learning objectives?*

A. The learning objectives are designed to ensure that the participant receives a well-rounded understanding of primary care, working in a multi-disciplinary environment, and understanding Community Clinics and Health Centers. See the complete list of learning objectives located on the Cal-SEARCH website at:

<http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/hwdd/cal-search>.

***This program is funded by US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.***