# **Next Generation Public Health Pathways Grant Project Narrative**

The project narrative should provide a detailed and compelling description of the applicant's proposed initiative to inspire and prepare diverse talent for rewarding careers in governmental public health. Successful proposals will include the following sections:

#### Section 1: Organizational capacity (1.5-page limit)

1. Summary of the applicant organization's mission, history, and track record of engaging diverse populations and building career pathways in public health or related fields.
2. Description of the project team, including the relevant expertise and experience of key staff who will lead the initiative, with an emphasis on their understanding of the target audience(s) and commitment to increasing diversity in the public health workforce.
3. Explanation of the organization's capacity to implement programs effectively, including systems for program management and evaluation of impact. Describe experience managing similar initiatives and approach to addressing implementation challenges.
4. If applying as a partnership, clear description of each collaborating organization and the unique capabilities and resources they will contribute to the project.

#### Section 2: Program design (3-page limit)

1. Identification of the specific diverse group(s) that the project will engage, with justification for focusing on the selected population(s) and a clear strategy and timeline for recruiting a diverse cohort of participants.
2. Detailed description of proposed activities to:
   1. Broaden participants' understanding of the wide spectrum of career opportunities in public health, with an emphasis on illuminating lesser-known roles and the meaningful impact of public health work.
   2. Provide participants with direct exposure to governmental public health work, initiatives, and systems, highlighting the breadth and impact of public health functions. Offer hands-on learning experiences that make careers in the field tangible and inspire participants to pursue them. Ensure that the exposure is appropriate for the group being served, for example, general public health exposure to younger audiences vs. exposure to specific governmental public health functions and operations to older audiences.
   3. Help participants develop core public health competencies and transferable skills that prepare them for success in governmental public health roles, with an explanation of how skill-building will be tailored to the needs and interests of the target audience(s).
3. Clearly defined project goals that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound ([SMART) objectives](https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/nc-smart-goals-fact-sheet.pdf) that align with the overarching aim of increasing diversity and representation in the governmental public health workforce.
4. Specific plans for providing ongoing mentorship, networking opportunities, and career navigation support to guide participants in taking concrete steps toward governmental public health roles.

#### Section 3: Program implementation (1 page limit)

1. Comprehensive evaluation framework that defines measurable process and outcome metrics aligned with project goals, including tracking participant demographics, changes in public health career interests and skills, and educational/job placements in governmental public health, if applicable.
2. Methodology and timeline for continuous data collection, analysis, and reporting, with a focus on generating actionable insights to improve project effectiveness and sharing lessons learned with key stakeholders.
3. Plans for gathering qualitative feedback from participants and partners to assess strengths, challenges, and opportunities for enhancing project impact and sustainability.
4. Clear strategies for continuing successful project components and partnerships to

Proposals must not exceed 6 pages, excluding the budget and budget justification. Applicants should use the section headers and page limits provided above to organize their project narratives.