UHI + GME Community Champions Program

Supplemental information for applicants
Community Champions Program

Goal:

The Community Champions program seeks to empower, connect, and support resident/fellow leaders in community engagement.

The Community Champions will participate in a didactic curriculum and collaborate with the Urban Health Initiative on a community-benefit longitudinal project. Each Community Champion will have the opportunity to receive mentorship from faculty and community leaders. Each participant will be expected to be an ambassador to their programs to engage co-residents/co-fellows and other team members in community engagement programming.

Recognizing the healthcare disparities impacting Chicago's South Side community, it is our hope that through community engagement, more residents and fellows will seek opportunities and choose to work on Chicago's South Side after completing training.
“As the COVID-19 pandemic has made tragically clear, health disparities in our South Side communities put residents at significantly higher risk for illness – whether chronic disease or viral infection. While UChicago Medicine has made robust investments toward improving health equity, there is a renewed urgency to quickly adapt to this changed landscape and join with community partners in addressing current and evolving healthcare needs.”

Brenda Battle, RN, BSN, MBA
Vice President of the Urban Health Initiative
Chief Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Officer

The Urban Health Initiative (UHI) is the University of Chicago Medicine’s community health department, which administers our population health and community benefit programs.

UHI Sponsored Programs include:
• Community Grand Round
• Violence Prevention and Recovery
• Health Fairs
• Neighborhood Days of Service
• Talk Radio Health Shows
• Mobile Clinics

Population
625,707

UChicago Medicine service area
Covering 12 ZIP codes

Poverty

53% of service-area population

Children in poverty
More than 2x the state rate

43%
Chicago: 32%
Illinois: 20%

Education
Less than high school grad

16%
Chicago: 32%
Illinois: 12%

Unemployment
Nearly double the city-wide rate

21%
Chicago: 11%
Illinois: 8%

Food insecurity

Nearly 1 in 2 households are at risk for food insecurity

Health care concerns from the community

Complexity of obtaining and keeping public benefit coverage, such as Medicaid

Poor health care options for LGBTQ community and people of color

Unequal distribution of health care services and facilities

High cost of some private insurance plans
Selection Criteria

- PGY 2 or above level residents/fellows are eligible to apply
- Each applicant must be in good academic standing with approval from the PD
- Each applicant will submit an essay
  - How have you been involved in community engagement in the past?
  - What is your motivation to continue this involvement and why are you interested in participating in the Community Champions program in particular?
  - What unique characteristics or ideas can you bring to this engagement?
Program Components

- Curriculum
- Project Participation
- Mentorship/Networking
- Alumni Engagement
Program Components

- **Curriculum**
  - Each resident community champion will participate in a community engagement curriculum
  - Each resident community champion will help facilitate program participation in the curriculum

- **Project Participation**
  - Each resident champion will be a liaison for their department/program to participate in UHI community activities
  - Each resident champion must participate in 6 activities, (at least 4 directly involving community engagement projects) from July to June
Timeline

- May-June: Request for applications and selection of participants
- July-June 2022:
  - Time commitment: 4-8 hours per month
  - Participate in educational curriculum
  - At least 6 community participation sessions
    - UHI Program choice of participation led by resident/fellow Community Champion liaison examples include:
      - STEM career sessions with middle school/high school students
      - Ask the Doctor Health Panels
      - Community Day of Service
      - Cooking demonstrations
      - Community grand rounds
      - Radio health sessions
      - Facebook Live sessions
      - Working meetings with community leaders and public health officials
Resident Champions Opportunities

- Education on healthcare inequity and opportunities to make a difference in our community outreach
- Opportunities to be leaders in your department for community engagement (e.g. Resident Chief of Community Outreach)
- Quarterly mentoring and networking events
- Honorarium for each resident/fellow Community Champion
- Branded materials and supplies, free meals and transportation for community based sessions
Community Champions in Action

Community Grand Rounds - LGBTQIA Youth Issues: Homelessness and the Pandemic

Isolation & Covid-19 Panel Discussion

Community Champions Orientation 1/29/2021