Help Needed: Opportunity with Iowa Department of Public Health

Project Title
Community Discussion of the Iowa Newborn Screening Program
(Also known as: INSP Deliberative Community Engagement project)

Position Description
The Iowa Department of Public Health is seeking assistants to document social and interpersonal interactions during a community event. This is an opportunity to gain front-lines experience in an evidence-based Public Health community project. Assistants will learn about public health, group process, group facilitation, public health, public policy, genetic conditions, and ethics.

To Apply
Email sarah.vangorp@idph.iowa.gov by March 1, 2018.

Project Description
The Iowa Newborn Screening (INSP) Program is one of several NBS programs nationwide to consider adding additional genetic screenings to its newborn dried blood spot screening panel. The INSP Deliberative Community Engagement project, funded by a grant from The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL), is a process to gain recommendations from Iowans about the addition of these new conditions.

The project recruits a representative sample of Iowans to ask public perspective on the addition of Pompe, X-ALD, and MPS-1 to the newborn screening panel. Participants will be briefed on the ethical, economic, and personal considerations of adding these screenings. After the event, the participants’ recommendations will be reviewed and used for policy and future decision making.

Qualifications:

- Skill and knowledge of social interactions, observations, and group process.
- Detail oriented, with ability to accurately summarize what is said, how it is said, and the non-verbal interactions of the group.
- Good communication skills to be able to evaluate and present the group’s experiences and interactions to the project team during and after the event.
- Technical competence to be able to operate an audio recorder and ensure that the conversation is captured as needed for the project.
- Ability to perform tasks without taking a side in the conversation, both politically and in terms of the specific issue discussed during the event. Not a known advocate for one side of an issue or a specific political party stance.
- Ability to work as a member of the project team, working closely with the project director and staff.
- Ability to be flexible to schedule or topic changes, as the need arises, to accommodate the overall project goals and needs of the group.
Responsibility:

- Be able to monitor the participants’ verbal and non-verbal responses according to what is happening within the small and large group sessions.
- Document the participants’ statements without putting words in their mouth or creating an inaccurate impression of their statements.
- Be aware of the format and goals for each session to document the flow of discussion according to the needs of the project.
- Record social observations, non-verbal interactions, and comments in a timely and organized way for project staff after the event.
- Ensure group members complete pre- and post-evaluations during the event.
- Self-monitor personal verbal and non-verbal interactions in order to appear unbiased during the event.
- Treat participants with respect and professionalism.
- Work cooperatively with staff, before and during the event.
- At the conclusion, suggest improvements and give feedback about process.
- Have fun!

Logistics:

- 2 Day Event: April 7 & 8, 2018
- Location: Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center, Johnston, Iowa
- Meals provided (snacks and lunch)
- Number of research assistants - 6
- Stipend: $200
- Time Commitment:
  - Training before the event (April 6th, Time- TBD),
  - 20 hours during 2 day event

Event Agenda
Responsibilities underlined below

- **Saturday, April 7** - Assistance with set-up, education/presentations for participants, small group facilitation/take notes, large group Q&A/take notes, staff meeting after event
- **Sunday, April 8** - education/presentations, small group facilitation/take notes, large group facilitation/take notes, staff meeting after event, assistance with wrap-up