DPCS Boston Community Health Cohort

Internships through the Center for Social Impact’s Boston Community Health Cohort introduce students to the human side of health in a city known for leading the country in health-related social change through progressive legislation and activism. Students are placed within social sector organizations that continue to drive this change and serve some of the city’s most marginalized communities and groups.

Program Overview

* Cohort of 8 students
* 10-week full-time summer term internship in Boston, MA
* Internships are in-person, either at organizational offices or out in the community
* Shared housing provided by DCSI
* \*$1700 (subject to slight change) living stipend to cover transportation and food
* Students are matched with an alumni mentor
* Professional development programming throughout the 10-week period

*\*Stipend amounts are determined in accordance with* [*MIT’s Living Wage Calculator*](https://livingwage.mit.edu/pages/methodology)

Impact Focus – Community Health

Community health is a diverse and intersectional field that understands patients are people first, rather than a series of medical diagnoses. Under resourced communities often face multiple barriers to living their healthiest lives due to intersecting barriers to access. Nonprofits across Boston work tirelessly to erase and reverse those barriers in myriad ways ranging from nutrition programs to free foot clinics, community meals to after-school exercise programs.

Boston Community Health Interns can expect to be placed with a high functioning nonprofit that approaches health not only as a medical problem, but as one that stems from complex social issues, using dynamic solutions to approach the problems they face daily.

Relevant Terms

* [Community Health](https://publichealth.tulane.edu/blog/why-community-health-is-important-for-public-health/)
* [Social Determinants of Health](https://www.who.int/health-topics/social-determinants-of-health#tab=tab_1)
* [Patient Navigation](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/community-resources/interventions/patient-navigation.htm)

Program Details

Selected program participants will be matched to a pre-scoped internship role by DCSI with one of our community service organization (CSO) partners.

Internship roles vary greatly across organizations. In general all roles will expose students to the inner workings of a healthcare focused CSO and to the community they are aiming to support (whether that be unhoused individuals, patients with specific illnesses, marginalized identity groups, under resourced neighborhoods, etc). While every effort is made to match students with roles/organizations that suit their interests, students should be prepared to contribute to the organization based on their assigned internship role as these roles reflect the real and actual needs of both our CSO partners and the communities that they serve. Students do not select the organization or internship role they are assigned to.

Internships will involve full-time work (35-40 hours / week) for a period of 10 weeks covering the summer term (although exact program dates are subject to change).

**City Profile:** Boston, MA is about 3 hours from Dartmouth and is the largest city in the New England area. It is known for its lively university culture, prominent role in the American Revolution, and vibrant sports culture, especially in the summer. Like other historic cities, Boston is a city that is heavily neighborhood-centric, with each neighborhood bringing a unique identity, close knit community, and set of complex social impact issues. Past interns have said that experiencing Boston’s neighborhood culture made their internships very special and meaningful but required a lot of listening when they first arrived to learn their host community. Summer in Boston is full of possibilities, from the energy of Fenway Park to countless free activities in Boston Common, there is always something to do. Weather is hot and humid, with average temperatures being in the mid 80s with high humidity, although recent summers have been hotter due to heat waves.

**Housing and meals:** Interns are housed together in an area of the city populated by a major university. Students have double rooms and share bathrooms and lounges with members of their cohort. They are expected to buy groceries and cook in shared kitchens.

**Transportation:** Students are expected to take public transportation to and from their work sites each day. Average transportation time is about 45 minutes to an hour each way.

**DCSI support:** DCSI staff is always available in case of an emergency, but they are also available to help students in other instances such as problems with background checks, work duties, or in general instances of professional development and mentoring.

**Reflection opportunities:** Students will be required to read a book about structural poverty throughout their internship experience. Additionally, they will be required to produce a written reflection at the midterm point and a written or media-based reflection at the final point of the term. Upon return to campus, they will participate in a group reflection and an individual debrief meeting with a DCSI staff member.

2024 CSO Partners

Each of the CSO partners listed below will host 1-3 cohort interns. Roles within each organization will vary but may include patient navigation, research, administrative support, communications, and program management and delivery support.

* [Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program](https://www.bhchp.org/) (BHCHP): The mission of BHCHP is to ensure unconditionally equitable and dignified access to the highest quality health care for all individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Boston community.
* [East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC)](https://www.ebnhc.org/en/about-us/mission.html) – promotes and sustains health communities, families, and individuals by providing accessible, person-centered, compassionate, high-quality health care services to all who live and work in their service area, regardless of ability to pay.
* [The Dimock Center](https://dimock.org/): The Dimock Center serves communities in Boston and across the state, providing comprehensive, culturally competent Health and Community Care, Behavioral Health Services, and Child and Family Services to more than 19,000 people annually.
* [Boston Living Center / Victory Programs](https://www.vpi.org/): Victory Programs open the door to hope, recovery, and community for individuals and families facing homelessness, addiction, or other chronic health conditions. Their program focus areas are Housing, Health & Recovery, and Prevention.

As a reminder, students will not be able to select or express preference for a specific CSO or role. They will be matched according to the needs of the CSO and the community it serves.

Professional Development

DCSI’s professional development programming aims to achieve the following goals:

* Increased knowledge around the cohort’s theme
* Exposure to the cohort city’s alumni network, history, and culture
* Opportunity to process the internship experience through self-reflection and group discussion
* A better understanding of social sector careers and how to succeed professionally in this sector

Practically speaking, professional development programming includes networking events, dinners, guided discussions with your cohort, reflection assignments, and site visits.

Alumni Mentorship

Each student is matched with an alumni mentor who helps guide them through the cohort experience by providing support, professional development, and advice. Students typically meet with their alumni mentor 3-4 times over the 10-week program. Mentors generally reside in the cohort city and can meet with students in-person but can be remote as well.

A True Cohort

Boston Community Health Interns live and learn together, creating a new community for the summer. They support each other when days are challenging and celebrate together when there are victories. They may enjoy cooking meals together or simply share the bounty when they make too much. Students are encouraged to actively engage in the process of caring for one another and fostering each other’s growth.

Program Requirements

**Language Requirement:** None, but Spanish speakers are encouraged to apply.

**Personal Qualities:** Initiative, Flexibility, An Open Mind, Humility, Curiosity, Empathy

**Availability:** Must be available for the entire duration of the program

Students from all majors and potential career paths are welcome to apply.

Funding for this program is generously provided by Dartmouth Partners in Community Service (DPCS), a group of alumni classes dedicated to supporting students pursuing social impact work.