Fund for Public Health NYC
Health is everybody's business.

Fund for Public Health
in New York City
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Job Title: Foodborne Disease Epidemiologist

The Fund for Public Health in New York City, (FPHNYC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is dedicated to the advancement of the health and well-being of all New Yorkers. To this end, in partnership with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), FPHNYC incubates innovative public health initiatives implemented by DOHMH to advance community health throughout the city. It facilitates partnerships, often new and unconventional, between government and the private sector to develop, test, and launch new initiatives. These collaborations speed the execution of demonstration projects, effect expansion of successful pilot programs, and support rapid implementation to meet the public health needs of individuals, families, and communities across New York City.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW (Please list Grant Name and Location)
The Fund for Public Health in New York (FPHNY) in collaboration with New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) in the Bureau of Communicable Disease received an award from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. This opportunity is to explore the use of social media data such as Twitter and other sites to identify potential outbreaks of disease and to do public health investigations to implement control measures to prevent additional illnesses.

The Bureau of Communicable Disease tracks 73 infectious diseases and investigates disease outbreaks in NYC. There are over 20,000 restaurants and 15,000 food retail establishments yet only about 30 restaurant-associated foodborne outbreaks are reported annually. Outbreak detection in NYC through traditional means includes responding to complaints received via 311. In 2011, the Bureau began evaluating possible complaints reported to Yelp and successfully identified unreported outbreaks. The complaint system now includes social media data from Twitter to identify foodborne outbreaks. The Bureau seeks a qualified individual to work as a foodborne epidemiologist to manage the project to identify complaints and outbreaks reported via social media data.

POSITION OVERVIEW
The Foodborne Disease Epidemiologist position is expected to be funded through June 30, 2020. This position will work with computer scientists and information technologists to maintain and enhance the Foodborne Illness Tracker, an application to identify complaints and outbreaks that may be reported in social media data such as Yelp and Twitter. This position will also perform investigations of foodborne illness and interface with other city, state and national agencies regarding foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak investigations.

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RESPONSIBILITIES

- Collaborate with Columbia University and Division of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DITT) staff on informatics projects related to outbreak detection using social media data
- Support daily operations, maintenance and quality assurance related to the outbreak detection application using social media data
- Perform investigations of foodborne illness
- Supervise student interns who conduct complaint and outbreak investigations
- Lead outbreak investigations identified through social media which will involve working closely with other divisions at the agency such as environmental and laboratory
- Conduct analysis of surveillance and outbreak investigation data
- Interact with state and federal agencies
- Develop interview tools, oversee questionnaire completion, data entry, analysis and report writing related to foodborne disease outbreaks
- Prepare reports of analyses for grant updates, abstracts, presentations, manuscripts, internal reports and for the webpage
- Write research papers describing surveillance methodologies and results; participate in national forums including conferences, meetings, and workshops
- May do on site field investigations
- Will be assigned to an emergency response team and assist with public health emergency responses made by the Bureau and the Department

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's degree in public health, epidemiology, biostatistics, evaluation, or a related field; experience with foodborne illness investigations preferred
- Proficiency in Microsoft Excel and Access required; statistical training and strong experience with SQL programming and SAS is desired
- Ability to work independently and in teams to collect and analyze data
- Ability to interpret statistical analyses and to present findings in reports and presentations preferred
- Strong project management skills and attention to detail
- Excellent interpersonal, organizational, and computer skills

SALARY AND BENEFITS
FPHNYC offers a comprehensive benefits package. The salary range for this position is commensurate with experience and education.

TO APPLY
To apply, send Resume, with Cover Letter, including salary requested and how your experience relates to this position, to publichealthjobs@fphnyc.org indicating "**Foodborne Disease Epidemiologist**" in subject line.

The Fund for Public Health in New York City is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages a diverse pool of candidates to apply.