The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (HSPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Program Evaluation Practicum is a unique learning and experiential opportunity, for students and Maternal and Child Health (MCH) public health programs. In partnership with CDC’s Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program in the Division of Reproductive Health, HSPH will offer this Winter Session course in January 2018. Upon completion of the course, the student participants develop comprehensive evaluation plans for participating MCH programs. HSPH students and staff from selected programs will attend a one week program evaluation training (January 2-5) in Atlanta, Georgia at the CDC, followed by a week at the field site where students will learn details of the program (January 8-12).

**Ideal MCH Program Participants:** A program working to improve MCH or Reproductive Health outcomes, that is in need of a developed evaluation plan. MCH Programs may include Title V, Title X, or be rooted in various cross-cutting public health departments that address MCH issues.

**Evaluation Plan Product:** HSPH students orally present the evaluation plan to program staff and stakeholders at the end of Week 2. During the following week students complete a final evaluation plan write-up, consolidating findings and recommendations from the program. The program receives the final plan after the students consider review and comments by their team and course faculty.

**Time Commitment:** Participating staff should expect to dedicate 2 full weeks to the Practicum—4 days in Atlanta for the in-class training (Week 1, inclusive of travel); and 5 days facilitating students at the field site, as needed (Week 2). Some time prior to the training will be necessary to prepare background information about the program for course participants, as well as to arrange meetings with local program constituents during the field week.

**About the Practicum:** HSPH students enrolled in the course are matched with a state, tribal, local or other health organization MCH program. Teams are comprised of two students, two program representatives, and an epidemiologist (i.e. CDC Assigned Senior MCH Epidemiologist & CDC/Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Applied Epidemiology Fellow in agencies where they are located). During the first week of the Practicum, teams meet in Atlanta to participate in an intensive course in public health evaluation; the curriculum includes logic model development, evaluation design, economic analysis, selection of indicators, and data sources. Participants also receive an overview of Maternal and Child Health, U.S. public health systems programming, and hear from individuals who provide real-world examples of evaluation. Teams have opportunities to meet throughout the first week in breakout sessions, to get acquainted and commence work. Since the training week convenes on a CDC campus, participants also gain exposure to CDC resources. In the second week, teams disperse to the field where students work with the program directly to create an evaluation plan that the agency may take from plan to implementation. During this week, the students meet with stakeholders and local program constituents to learn about the program, hands-on.

"The logic model (that was a product of the Practicum) helped the program organize thoughts about the program goal; subsequently, the framework was used as the foundation for a proposal that was funded." - Previous State Program Participant
Previous MCH Program Participants include Title V, Title X, and Tribal Health Programs. Examples include:

- Educating Physicians in their Communities Breastfeeding Program, Georgia
- Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System’s Outreach to WIC-enrolled Mothers, Wisconsin
- Best Beginnings Perinatal Home Visiting Program for Wyoming Babies, Wyoming
- Live It! Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Sexual Health Education, Division of Indian Work, Minnesota
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Massachusetts
- Electronic Health Record Implementation in Title X Family Planning Service Agencies, Michigan

“The state carved off a component of the evaluation framework for implementation for a subsequent practicum with students (from another university) during the following summer. These students submitted an abstract to the MCH Epidemiology Conference based on their experience.”

- Previous State Program Participant

Cost of Training: During the training week in Atlanta, the costs for travel and lodging will be covered for two program staff, the CDC Assigned MCH Epidemiologist or organization Epidemiologist, and a CSTE Fellow (in agencies where they are located). HSPH student travel costs and lodging are also provided during the field week of the course.

How to Apply: Submit a description of the program to be evaluated, using the provided form. Descriptions should be no more than 400 words to be considered for inclusion in the January 2018 cohort of MCH programs. In addition to the program description, please include the names and titles for up to two potential participants from MCH program staff, the CDC Assigned MCH Epidemiologist or organization Epidemiologist, and CSTE Fellow (if applicable). Email complete information to Danielle Arellano (darellano@cdc.gov) by September 1, 2017.

Questions?
Contact Danielle Arellano (darellano@cdc.gov) or 770-488-8059

Students, epidemiologists, and program staff on a tour of the CDC Emergency Operations Center in 2016.

Enthusiastic HSPH student teams from previous Practicum experiences: Working in the states of (from top left, clockwise) Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, and Ohio.