



MULTNOMAH COUNTY  
ANNOUNCES AN UNPAID HEALTH EDUCATOR INTERNSHIP

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION AND PROMOTION INTERNSHIP**  
*West Nile Virus and Bed Bug Content Area*

**SALARY: UNPAID**

**DEADLINE: Spring and Summer 2008**

**LOCATION AND HOURS:** The internship will be based out of the SE Health Center at 3653 SE 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue. However, the intern will be spending approximately 25 % of the internship engaged in community-based trainings. The internship is unpaid for anywhere from 10-40 hours a week.

**INTERNSHIP CONCENTRATION TOPICS:**

Environmental Health Education, Emerging Public Health Concerns (primarily West Nile Virus and Bed Bugs) , Community Outreach, Training and Facilitation, Public Information and Response to Imminent Health Issues, Vector and Nuisance Control.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2007, Multnomah County saw a significant increase in its' West Nile virus cases in birds, especially in its urban areas. West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease that is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito. The County's Vector Control Department has appropriate resources for disease surveillance and mosquito field control but lacks a necessary educational outreach program for integrated community-wide mosquito management.

The nation has seen an increase in bed bugs, and Multnomah County is experiencing a significant increase in bed bug infestations and complaints as well. The county, in partnership with pest control operators, the City of Portland, social services organizations, hospitality services, and other entities, desires to convene a Bed Bug Task Force. This group will connect to dialogue on multiple strategies including prevention-based education and outreach, seeking funding for vulnerable populations affected, and supporting housing inspection programs as they tackle this issue.

**INTERN RESPONSIBILITIES**

The internship program is designed to provide university students – majors in Public Health Education and Promotion or Environmental Education – with the opportunity to integrate academic learning at the community level. The Environmental Health Educator will support workforce development by training Environmental Health Services education interns in community-based training modules and evaluating effective strategies for Community- Based information dissemination.

The Intern will:

1. Raise the public's awareness of Environmental Health's services and functions in a simple, easy-to-understand approach that supports behavior change and ensures cultural competence.
2. Identify methods and target audiences for disseminating West Nile virus information, coordinate WNV trainings/workshops/booths, evaluate these events, work with the Public Affairs Office to create press releases and work with the webmaster to keep the West Nile virus website current.
3. Coordinate a new Bed Bug Task Force on a monthly basis, coordinate the development of 4-6 forums to different target audiences on bed bug prevention, disseminate information to key stakeholders, improve the county's Bed Bug website, research national educational responses to the increase in Bed Bugs nationwide, and other duties as necessary.
4. Motivate people to adopt and maintain healthful practices and lifestyles.
5. Advocate social and environmental changes as needed to facilitate healthful living conditions and behavior.

6. Encourage behavior change around vector/nuisance issues by being pro-active in identifying key actions that contribute to an increase in vector control issues; and then creating health education tools and trainings to address these actions.
7. Support field and housing inspectors in community relations by ensuring they have educational resources in key issue areas.

#### **TO QUALIFY**

1. Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing; ability to present ideas effectively to individuals as well as to large groups and civic organizations.
2. Excellent written and verbal communication skills, public speaking skills, plus strong computer skills (with an emphasis on PowerPoint.)
3. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationship with employees, supervisors, volunteers, other departments, officials and the public.
4. Knowledge of methods and techniques for health education and community outreach and advocacy.

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

Please submit an application or direct questions to: