

Community Engagement Postdoctoral Associate

The Department of Environmental Health at the Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) has a long history and national reputation of interdisciplinary community-based participatory research to address environmental health inequalities. The Community Engagement (CE) Postdoctoral Associate will work with two research centers and affiliated partners on community engagement and research translation activities in Massachusetts and nationally. The position will involve leading several projects while developing engagement expertise through scholarship, preparing manuscripts, and the opportunity to co-teach a course.

The BU Superfund Research Center includes five studies conducted by investigators at BUSPH and at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The focus of the Center is “Long-term impacts of early life exposure to Superfund chemicals in humans and wildlife,” with a special emphasis on developmental and behavioral health outcomes (www.busrp.org).

The Center for Research on Social and Environmental Stressors in Housing Across the Life Course (CRESSH) is a partnership between BUSPH and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. It consists of three studies that address chemical and non-chemical stressors from different disciplinary perspectives (epidemiology, exposure assessment, and quantitative techniques for analyzing cumulative risk) with a specific focus on indoor and outdoor air pollutants and exposures unique to housing and the neighborhood environment (www.cressh.org).

Primary responsibilities of the CE Postdoctoral Associate will be to work with Superfund and CRESSH investigators, Core leaders, and community partners to facilitate, evaluate, and document community engagement activities. Specific activities will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Evaluate and document the reporting of research results to participants in a home-based indoor air monitoring study.
- Develop a process for enabling CRESSH investigators to compare their social and environmental health stressor constructs with the perceptions of community stakeholders, including key stakeholder focus groups, to obtain information on participants’ understanding of local environmental health concerns, exposure issues, and the nature of the stressor combinations; prepare a manuscript analyzing the value of the focus groups for honing research constructs to be used in CRESSH research.
- Work with members of the International Society for Children’s Health and the Environment (ISCHE) – composed of children’s environmental health professionals, including epidemiologists, chemists, toxicologists, clinicians, environmentalists, community leaders, students, and public health practitioners – to develop mechanisms to support increased access to science for affected communities and, conversely, more exposure to community concerns for framers of evidence-based policy solutions.
- Co-teaching a graduate-level course on Community Engaged Research: Theory, Methods, and Applications (if desired, not required).

Primary collaborators of the two centers include NorthStar Learning Centers in New Bedford, Massachusetts, GreenRoots in Chelsea, Massachusetts, Health Resources in Action, Toxics Action Center New England, and the Science & Environmental Health Network.

The CE Postdoctoral Associate will participate in regular Center meetings and join a team of faculty, doctoral students, and research assistants. The primary postdoctoral supervisor will be Prof. Madeleine Scammell. This is a two-year position.

Requirements:

- Ph.D./doctorate in social sciences (e.g., sociology, anthropology) or Ph.D./doctorate in public health field, environmental health.
- Expertise in qualitative research.
- Knowledge of environmental health / environmental epidemiology.
- Community engagement experience.

To Apply: Send CV and a letter describing your interests to Madeleine Scammell, D.Sc. (MLS@bu.edu). Please indicate "Community Engagement Postdoctoral Associate" in subject line.