



## **The Center for Excellence in Public Health Leadership**

### **Excellence in Mentorship for Unity, Resilience, and Growth (EMURG) in Health Equity Leaders Fellowship**

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Fellowship Description and Activities**

##### **1. What is the EMURG Fellowship?**

The Excellence in Mentorship for Unity, Resilience, and Growth (EMURG) in Health Leaders Fellowship (EMURG Fellowship) is a Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) 12-month fellowship. The fellowship aims to provide educational and professional development opportunities for graduate-level scholars interested in addressing public health, mental health, and maternal and child health within the federal government. The overarching goal of the EMURG Fellowship is to support future federal public health leaders. Fellows may also gain clinical experience and develop leadership skills.

##### **2. What are the site locations for the EMURG Fellowship?**

The EMURG Fellowship is located at multiple DHHS sites. In your application, we request that you specify what areas of public health you are interested in pursuing. Based on the information you provide on your application you will be matched with a mentor in one of the DHHS agencies. The EMURG Fellowship is hybrid; e.g., program activities (seminars and mentoring), will be virtual. The two-week orientation is in person in Baltimore, Maryland. We use rich, interactive learning design to integrate the in-person and virtual learning context to create interpersonal and collaborative connections among fellows across sites.

#### **Eligibility**

##### **3. Who is eligible for the EMURG Fellowship?**

- Applicants must: Be currently enrolled in a master's or doctoral program, or completed a master's or doctoral degree within 12 calendar months of the EMURG orientation (last week in May)
- Have at least a 2.7 GPA, or better, on a 4.0 scale.
- Be interested in reducing health disparities and a leadership career in the federal government
- Be able to commit to participate in program activities for the length of the program (Full-time/40 hours per week)
- Be a US citizen, US National, or a permanent resident

**4. Can people of all backgrounds apply for the EMURG Fellowship?**

Yes. All currently enrolled graduate students and those within 12 months of graduation, as described in question #3, are eligible for the EMURG Fellowship.

**5. Can international students participate in the EMURG Fellowship?**

No, international students (i.e., students with F1 or K1 visas) are **not eligible** to participate in the EMURG Fellowship.

**6. I graduate before the EMURG Fellowship starts; can I apply?**

If you are within 12 months of your graduate degree graduation, you can apply for the EMURG Fellowship.

**7. Can undergraduate students participate in the EMURG Fellowship?**

No, Student must meet the criteria stated in question 3 and 4. If you are an undergraduate or recent baccalaureate student (within 12 months of program orientation), please consider applying to our MCHC/RISE-UP or MCH-LEARN programs.

**8. Can students without health insurance apply for the EMURG Fellowship?**

Students without health insurance can apply to the EMURG Fellowship; However, all accepted EMURG Fellows must have health insurance.

**Program Accommodations and Expectations**

**9. Do students receive a stipend for participating in the EMURG Fellowship?**

- |                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| ○ Pre-Master's | \$39,624    |
| ○ Master's     | \$44,252    |
| ○ Pre-Doc      | \$48,880    |
| ○ Post-Doc     | \$61,428 ** |

\*Housing allowance (up to \$20,400) is available with rates based on geographic region.

\*\* Stipend amount is determined by academic level

**10. Are travel and housing costs taken out of the stipend?**

No, travel costs are not taken out of the stipend. The fellowship covers travel expenses related to the program. The fellowship covers the two-week summer orientation housing/lodging in a dormitory-style setting.

**11. Are meals sponsored by the program?**

During the 2 Week Orientation, the fellowship will provide breakfast and lunch.

**12. Can the EMURG Fellowship provide necessary accommodations for varying ability levels?**

We are committed to providing ADA-compliant learning environments across program activities. There is space in the application to note accommodations applicants may need to participate in the EMURG-UP Fellowship. Requesting accommodation will not influence the review of applications or decision-making about program acceptance.

**13. Does the EMURG Fellowship count towards academic credit?**

The student's university/college determines if academic credit is granted for participating in the EMURG Fellowship.

**14. How many hours per week should students dedicate to the program?**

Students should expect to devote 40 hours per week to their public health or research projects and program activities.

**15. Are the program dates flexible (i.e., start later; take time off to work)?**

No, all students must commit to participation for the whole length of the program.

**Application Details**

**16. Where can I apply to the EMURG Fellowship program?**

The online application is available at [www.KennedyKrieger.org/EMURG](http://www.KennedyKrieger.org/EMURG).

**17. What is the best way to answer the essay questions?**

Applicants should strive to write well-organized essays that reflect on social determinants and research perspectives related to public health, developmental disabilities, mental health, maternal and child health, or infectious diseases. You are welcome and encouraged to use references/citations as necessary in your essays. As AI becomes more commonly used, it is of utmost importance that we read your unique

words in the essays. If you choose to use AI, other than grammar and spell-check purposes, please cite AI as a reference within the essay box.

**18. What if my graduate program is only graded on a Pass or Fail scale?**

Students who have successfully passed all courses may substitute their final transcript showing these results to meet our program criteria of a 3.0 or better GPA.

**19. What if my university does not provide unofficial transcripts?**

Students may request an official transcript and upload it with their application materials.

**20. Who can write my recommendation letters?**

Two letters of reference from professors, clinical advisors, research advisors, teacher assistants, or academic advisors at your current or former university are **REQUIRED**. The referee should use their professional or university email address. A third referee is recommended (optional). The reference format includes a brief questionnaire and a letter of recommendation with up to 850 words. The deadline for letters of recommendation is Friday, February 7, 2025 (11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time).

**21. To whom should recommendation letters be addressed?**

Please address recommendation letters to the "EMURG Fellowship Selection Committee".

**22. Is there a standard recommendation form to complete?**

Recommendations include a brief questionnaire and recommended questions referees are asked to address within the letter of recommendation.

**23. How many applicants are selected to participate in the EMURG Fellowship?**

The number of applicants varies from year to year. Slots are competitive.

**24. When should I expect a decision letter?**

Decision letters are emailed by the end of March.

**25. Where can I find more information on the EMURG Fellowship?**

Please visit our website, [www.KennedyKrieger.org/EMURG](http://www.KennedyKrieger.org/EMURG), for more information on the EMURG Fellowship.

***All program activities are contingent on the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) funding.***

***Address additional questions to: [EMURG\\_Fellowship@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:EMURG_Fellowship@kennedykrieger.org)***