Idaho SEARCH

Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health

Frequently Asked Questions

Q Will I be paid for my rotation?
A Participants receive a stipend of $40 per clinical day for up to 25 days.

Q Will the Idaho SEARCH program pay for my housing?
A The Idaho SEARCH Program will assist participants in making housing arrangements and will also assist with costs through a $500 living/travel allowance.

Q Does the Idaho SEARCH Program pay for travel costs?
A Participant travel costs may be offset by the living/travel allowance mentioned above.

Q Do I need my own car?
A While a car is not required, it is usually in the student's best interest to have his or her own mode of transportation. Lack of transportation may affect where a student is placed.

Q What do I have to do for a community project?
A Students are expected to spend 20-25 hours outside of clinic time on a community project and are reimbursed up to $30 at the end of the rotation to offset any expenses incurred for the project. The community project should focus on a particular health issue in the local community and can vary in scope from a health education project to teaching in a local school to helping with a health fair. The student's community mentor and clinical preceptor should help identify a topic.

Q What does a community mentor do?
A The community mentor is someone other than the clinical preceptor who can help the student better appreciate the culture and health issues in the community. The community mentor should meet with the student at least twice (once at the beginning of the rotation and once at the end) to discuss the community project. Other meetings can be of a more social nature to help the student acclimate to the local community.

Q Will I receive academic credit for my Idaho SEARCH rotation?
A Effort is made to ensure that students who are completing a SEARCH rotation as part of their academic program receive the necessary credit associated with the requirements of their own academic institution.

Idaho SEARCH Program Expectation Guidelines

A participant who applies to the Idaho SEARCH Program must:

- Complete an Idaho SEARCH Program application and return it to: Katrina Hoff, Idaho Primary Care Association, khoff@idahopca.org or 1087 West River Street Suite 160, Boise, ID 83702.
- Identify the name and contact information for the student's clinical rotation coordinator.
- Identify concrete dates for their proposed rotation on their application.
- Provide 2 letters of recommendation with their application. These letters must be mailed directly to the program and should have the letter writer's signature across the seal of the envelope.
  1. Clinical recommendation-written by a former preceptor or academic faculty member speaking to the student's clinical skill level.
  2. Community Service recommendation-written by an organization with whom the student has done community service or an individual who can attest to the student's community service experience.
- Write a letter of acceptance when the Idaho SEARCH Program offers the student a rotation.

A participant who is accepted to the Idaho SEARCH Program will:

- Medical students, Physician Assistants, and Residents from non-Idaho programs must register with the Idaho State Board of Medicine prior to the rotation. Idaho SEARCH Program staff can assist you with this process. (Idaho Programs should have already registered the students. Speak to the program advisor/coordinator to determine status.)
- Complete and return a W-9 form, the Student Payment Information form and attach a copy of the student's driver's license, prior to the start of the clinical rotation.
- Call the assigned clinical site one month prior to the start of the rotation to confirm the dates and details of the rotation.
- Work with the clinical site contact person to arrange housing for the rotation.
- Receive a $500 travel/housing allowance.
- Have a clinical preceptor who is responsible for evaluating the student for his/her academic program.
- Have a community mentor who is responsible for helping the student chose a community project topic and helping the student create a community experience.
- Complete a community project during the rotation (please see Community Project Guidelines).
- Submit a community project summary following the clinical rotation.
- Submit a Post-Rotation evaluation of the clinical rotation.
- Submit a rotation calendar indicating the number of days spent "in clinic."
- Receive $40 per day for up to 25 clinic days with the clinical preceptor to help cover housing, food, and costs associated with the rotation. Guidelines for payment are found on the Student Payment Information form. Payment will not be received until the post-rotation documentation materials have been received by the Idaho SEARCH program.

The Idaho SEARCH Program will:

- Provide the participant with application status information at the student's request.
- Confirm requirements of the clinical rotation with the participant's clinical rotation coordinator.
- Take into consideration a student's site preferences when designing a SEARCH rotation.
- Send a confirmation email to the student finalizing the details of the rotation, along with the Participant Payment Information form, W-9, and Pre-Rotation Evaluation.
- Send a confirmation email to the clinical site finalizing the details of the rotation.
- Send an acceptance packet to the student (includes the Community Project Guidelines form, the Idaho road map & travel guide, and other materials as determined by the Idaho SEARCH program).
- Call the participant during the first week of his or her rotation to assure that the details have been finalized and a community mentor has been assigned.
- Pay the participant a per diem as outlined in the Student Payment Information form.
- The Idaho SEARCH Program will provide participants with a $500 travel/housing allowance
- Monitor the student's community project and keep a copy of the community project summary on file for future use.

The Clinical Site will:

- Complete an application to become an official SEARCH site.
- Identify a clinical preceptor for the participant's SEARCH rotation.
- Work with the academic program to ensure that the appropriate evaluation of the student occurs.
- Identify a community mentor (a person outside the clinic staff) for the participant's SEARCH rotation.
- Work with the participant to find available housing for the rotation.
- Participate in a recognition lunch during the student's rotation.
- Receive Medical Spanish resources for the students/preceptors to use.
- Complete a site evaluation form prior to being reimbursed for their participation in the SEARCH program.
- Receive $500 for each SEARCH student who completes a rotation at the clinical site.

The Community Mentor will:

- Agree to meet with the SEARCH participant at least twice (once at the beginning and once at the end) of his or her rotation to discuss health issues in the local community.
- Provide the SEARCH participant with suggestions as to a topic for the community project.
- Help the SEARCH participant orient to the community by taking them to a community event.
- Receive a copy of the SEARCH participant's community project report for use in later years in the community.

Community Project Guidelines

The community project is designed to be a community service experience outside the clinic setting while you are on a SEARCH rotation. The hope is your meetings with your community mentor and your clinical preceptor will identify health concerns in the community.

- Your community project should involve at least 20 hours outside of clinic time.
- Your first meeting with your community mentor should help you identify topics for your project and broaden your community experience.
- Your final meeting with your community mentor should include information exchange about what you learned from your project.
- You will be reimbursed for the costs, up to $30, associated with your community project. Please save your receipts.
- You must write a 1 to 3 page summary of your community project which includes:
  - The topic of the project and why you chose it.
  - The process involved in completing the project.
  - Project highlights.
  - Project outcomes.
  - How the project affected your views on the topic.
- Some successful projects have included:
  - **The Southeastern Idaho Referral Directory for Pre-Natal Drug & Alcohol Treatment** - the participants identified local resources for substance abuse treatment (particularly for pregnant women) in a user-friendly format for providers.
  - **A Health Care Needs Assessment for Senior Citizens in Arco** - the participant did individual interviews with 12 senior citizens in their homes and gave a report of his findings to the local clinic.
  - **Breast Cancer Awareness Program** - the participant designed some health education materials about breast cancer and set-up a table in front of the local grocery store to educate local women.
  - **Eating Disorder Classes** - the participant worked with the local junior and senior high schools in a community to teach classes on eating disorders. She also wrote 3 "Health Note" articles for the weekly community newspaper.
  - **Community Health Fair** - the participant worked with his clinical preceptor to design an educational booth for the community health fair.

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