Community Health and Wellness Advocate Wanted

With financial support of a Hunger Free Kansas mini-grant, K-State Research & Extension Flint Hills District is seeking a qualified candidate to work in Morris County as a Community Health and Wellness Advocate. A person in this position will serve as independent contractor for the purpose of improving the overall health and well-being of individuals within Morris County communities by promoting health education, providing health and wellness resources, and advocating for policies that address public health needs.

Job Title: Community Health and Wellness Advocate

Job Summary:

The Community Health & Wellness Advocate will work closely with Morris County individuals, families, and community groups. They will take the lead in creating a county and region-specific resource map aimed to assist in connecting people with resources, services, and support to improve health outcomes. This role requires collaboration with K-State Research & Extension, Morris County schools, healthcare providers, community organizations, and local government agencies.

Key Responsibilities:

• Health Education and Outreach:

- Develop and distribute health education materials (flyers, pamphlets, online content) to raise awareness about specific health topics.
- Serve as a communication liaison for individuals and organizations working in the health and wellness arena to maximize community awareness of- and engagement in- programming.
- Promote health and wellness resources, activities and initiatives to community members on various health and wellness issues (e.g., chronic diseases, food insecurity, mental health, preventive care, nutrition, and substance abuse).

Resource Coordination:

- Attend monthly meeting of Live Well Morris County and related events as appropriate
- Communicate goals and benchmarks of the Community Health Improvement Plan as it applies across a wide variety of sectors in Morris County.
- Advocate for community health needs and resources, working to address barriers to healthcare, improving mental health, and promoting equitable access to health and wellness services.
- Collaborate with local government, public health agencies, and nonprofit organizations to improve community health policies and programs.

Community Resource Guide/Map

 The end-product of this position is that of a health and wellness resource map and/or tool that will allow county residents easy access to community resources, what is available, where to find them, and contact information. The ideal candidate will possess strong county connections (Morris County resident), be able to work as part of a team (Live Well Morris County), and provide positive feedback to youth (high schools interns).

Qualifications:

- Education:
 - A high school diploma or equivalent is required; an Associate's degree or higher in education, family & consumer sciences, public health, social work, or a related field is preferred.
- Experience:
 - Experience in community outreach, engagement, or a related field is preferred.
 - Familiarity with community resources and healthcare systems is a plus.
- Skills:
 - Strong communication and interpersonal skills.

- Ability to work independently and in teams.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite or other relevant software.

Work Environment:

- This role may involve both office and fieldwork, including visits to businesses, schools, healthcare facilities, and other community spaces.
- Some evening and weekend hours may be required depending on the needs of the community and the schedule of outreach programs.

Key Attributes:

- Compassionate and empathetic.
- A passion for community connections and engagement.
- Strong problem-solving abilities.
- Cultural sensitivity and the ability to work with diverse populations.
- Investment in co-mentoring high school youth working as interns.

Compensation:

This is a part-time, short-term independent contractor position. Transportation and expenses are the responsibility of the contractor. Hours will vary based on program scheduling and availability of partner agencies. Up to 20 hours/week will be required over a period of 28 weeks with anticipated end date of December, 2025. This is a grant funded position with a pre-set maximum pay-out. The Community Health and Wellness Advocate will work from the K-State Research & Extension Flint Hills District – Morris County office and report to Deb Andres, FCS Agent and the Live Well Morris County Executive Board as part of this collaborative effort.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates should submit:

- 1. A resume.
- 2. A cover letter explaining your interest in public health and why you want to be involved in community engagement.
- 3. Two references.

Please send your application materials to: Deb Andres, K-State Research & Extension Flint Hills District, 315 W. Main, Ste. A, Council Grove, KS 66846 or email to <u>dandres1@ksu.edu</u>.

Applications and support materials accepted until position is filled. Target start date is June 2025.