

Evaluation Fellowship Program

Building expertise and capacity to evaluate program effectiveness, ensure accountability, and drive continuous improvement

The Evaluation Fellowship Program (EFP) is a 2-year service-learning program that prepares master's and doctoral-level professionals for careers in public health program evaluation. Fellows evaluate programs operated or funded by CDC, including those at state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) governments.

What Fellows Do

Fellows enhance the quality and impact of public health programs and services by:

- **Developing tools to improve** program operations and measure success.
- **Training teams to evaluate** their programs, track progress, and apply their findings.
- **Using evaluation results** to help streamline operations for greater efficiency.
- **Sharing evaluation results** to demonstrate accountability for public health investments.
- **Using innovative data visualization techniques** to present complex data clearly.



By the Numbers

200+ fellows trained since 2011

230+ STLT health departments assisted by fellows in 2024

\$2 billion in federal funding assessed by fellows in 2024

Where Fellows Work

Fellows serve at CDC across the agency's centers, institutes, and offices.

- ★ **68%** deliver evaluation services that directly support state and local health departments
- ★ **Support a range of public health topics**, such as infectious disease prevention and control and emergency response

Why this Program Matters

EFP strengthens public health outcomes by:

- **Delivering data-driven insights.** Evaluation fellows generate and interpret data used to enhance program quality and effectiveness.
- **Building capacity.** EFP offers cost-effective access to evaluation expertise.
- **Ensuring accountability in public health funding.** Fellows measure and track grants and project performance to ensure recipients achieve expected results.

A Closer Look

Fellows safeguard health and well-being by measuring the effectiveness of public health programs and identifying opportunities to improve them. Contributions from the Classes of 2023 and 2024 include:

- ✓ **Supporting public health emergencies** by evaluating early warning surveillance systems, developing response tracking tools, and analyzing data to improve preparedness and response.
- ✓ **Evaluating laboratory activities** to enhance CDC biorepository services and maintain national accreditation.
- ✓ **Monitoring the results** of CDC-funded programs on physical activity, nutrition, and obesity prevention to ensure responsible use of federal funds.
- ✓ **Improving data analysis and reporting** to reduce viral hepatitis infections.
- ✓ **Strengthening management** of a \$240 million partnership with STLT governments.
- ✓ **Analyzing annual progress report data** submitted by 59 health departments to identify successes and challenges and inform future assistance.

Skilled Evaluators in High Demand

EFP fills gaps in capacity as teams across CDC seek to demonstrate accountability for their programs and grants.

There was a **52% increase** in requests for full-time fellow placements from 2024 to 2025.

Nearly 70% of requesting programs reported limited or no evaluation staff.

EFP received more than **100 requests** for help with short-term evaluation projects in FY 2024 and FY 2025.

Only 42% could be fulfilled as need outpaced fellow availability.

Evidence of Success

A published study* showed that fellows deliver high-quality evaluation services.

91% of CDC programs reported that an evaluation fellow improved their overall evaluation capacity

89% of programs stated that fellows accomplished evaluation work their team could not have done independently

*Source: [Evaluation of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Evaluation Fellowship Program, 2023](#)