

A Public Health Laboratory Fellowship Program

The CDC Laboratory Leadership Service (LLS) fellowship program is a gateway to a successful laboratory science career for promising early-career laboratory scientists. A competency-based service learning program, LLS focuses on training fellows in laboratory quality management, the science of biosafety, and leadership — building a strong foundation for future public health laboratory leadership and management positions.

Preparing Future Public Health Laboratory Leaders

Safety and quality are essential elements of excellence in public health laboratory science. LLS trains fellows to integrate safety and quality into every aspect of laboratory practice while working to protect the public's health, safety, and security.

LLS fellows develop leadership and critical thinking skills to provide rapid, strategic, and effective solutions — applying what they learn from their laboratory research on numerous disease-causing agents to solve real-world health problems.

"The Laboratory Leadership Service...will create tomorrow's leaders in laboratory science and safety."

Tom Frieden, MD, MPH
Former CDC Director

LLS promotes interdisciplinary training and networking, through which fellows learn to work with a team of experts — in laboratory science, laboratory safety, epidemiology, informatics, bioinformatics, and communications. Together, they collaborate to address major public health challenges.

A Proven Model: Learning Through Classroom Training and Service



Combining classroom learning with applied service has proven to be a successful learning model. Fellowships begin each year in July with an intensive one-month training session, alongside CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officers. Following the training, fellows spend the majority of their time performing hands-on work in CDC, state, or local public health laboratories under the mentorship of experienced laboratory scientists.

LLS is similar to CDC's world renowned EIS program, in the sense that it is service-based and public health-focused, but LLS is different in that it is laboratory-centric. LLS service learning projects primarily focus on laboratory science, quality, and safety, while EIS primarily focuses on surveillance, epidemiology, and outbreak investigation.

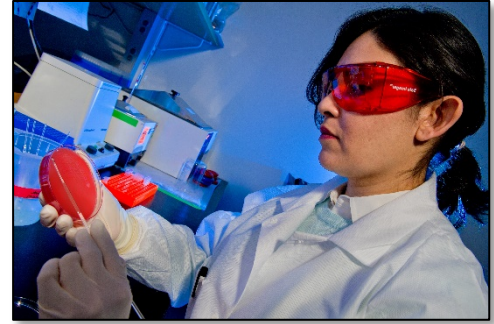


Inaugural LLS class with former CDC Director

LLS Fellows Perform Service While Learning

LLS is one of the critical components that helps make CDC and other public health laboratories the model for scientific excellence and safety. Through short periods of high-intensity classroom training, combined with longer periods of applied, hands-on service in CDC, state or local public health laboratories, and in the field, LLS graduates emerge with the knowledge and skills needed for the public health laboratory of today and tomorrow. In the integrated service learning model, LLS fellows:

- Engage in practical, applied field investigations and conduct applied laboratory research to help address urgent public health problems
- Conduct comprehensive laboratory safety and risk assessments to help improve the safety culture in CDC or other public health laboratories
- Evaluate laboratory quality management systems
- Attend regular seminars and annual conferences, and present findings from laboratory research, investigations, and studies



Qualifications

Eligible candidates may apply in late spring through summer for the following year's class. To qualify, you must:

- Hold a doctoral-level degree in a laboratory-related discipline (e.g., microbiology, molecular biology, organic chemistry, environmental chemistry, genetics, bioinformatics)
- Have a minimum of two years of post-graduate laboratory experience completed before the fellowship begins; this includes serving as a laboratory scientist in a clinical, public health, research, or industry laboratory, in addition to any laboratory work done as part of graduate training
- Be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident
- Be willing to commit to a two-year fellowship program

- Developed and tested new techniques for identifying and subtyping pathogens
- Provided field laboratory support for disease outbreak responses
- Performed a biosafety risk assessment on decontamination of laboratory waste
- Conducted environmental sampling during a hospital-based outbreak investigation

Additional Information

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💻 www.cdc.gov/lis