

The HCSA Career Exploration Program: To Provide 200 Internships for Oakland Youth

In 2014, The Atlantic Philanthropies awarded \$21 million in grant funds over 4 years to the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), Alameda County Health Care Services Agency (HCSA), and Alameda Health System to support and expand health career pathways in Oakland. The agencies formed the Oakland Health Pathways Partnership to promote cross-systems integration with the goal of strengthening OUSD health pathways, increasing the number and quality of healthcare internships, and other work-based learning (WBL) experiences for OUSD students.

The goal of the HCSA Career Exploration Program is to provide high school students with what they need to obtain a viable career in the health sector. HCSA is committed to breaking down these barriers for ethnically diverse student populations. In our experience, the impact of internships for students of color builds confidence and encourages the students to be dedicated to reaching their full potential and thrive in their communities.

Today, we are excited to announce the City of Oakland's Oakland Fund funded the HCSA Career Exploration Program for Children and Youth to continue providing health related work-based learning for Oakland students. Over the next 3-years, HCSA will provide **200 high school students** work experience within one of HCSA's four departments. We host 20 ethnically diverse youth each summer, fall, and spring in a PAID-internship that includes county professional development training facilitated by Human Resources and career development. Students are matched with a HCSA professional or team to complete a project, or work assigned by staff. The staff become our students' **Mentors** and guides during their internship supporting that intern throughout their time at HCSA.

“This internship impacted me by showing me different stuff and skills that you need in the health career. Also, I didn't know you can help someone by just being an administrator, and it made me more confident in talking to people...” Jennifer G., OUSD high school student

Get Involved Today

Sign up to be a Mentor [Online](#) or by emailing Sequoia.Hall@acgov.org.

Opportunity to support our youth starts September 16th, 2019.

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