

# CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service

## Talking Points for Recruitment + Promotion

### About the EIS Fellowship

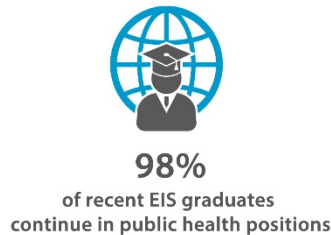
- The [Epidemic Intelligence Service](#), or EIS program, is the world's first and longest running disease detective training program. The goal of the two-year experiential learning fellowship is to provide training, mentoring, and experiences in applied epidemiology. EIS officers provide service to local, state, and international partners by investigating and responding to emerging and ongoing public health threats.
- EIS has 70+ years of proven success training over 3,900 disease detectives since 1951.
- The program offers unparalleled opportunities to learn while working alongside experts.
  - About 10% of the training occurs through a rigorous mix of small and large group classroom instruction, case studies, simulated exercises, and e-learning.
  - Most (90%) of the training is provided through hands-on assignments under the guidance of seasoned mentors and supervisors (usually EIS alumni).
- EIS alumni have gone on to fulfill critical and influential public health roles, such as: CDC directors; leading CDC decision-makers; acting surgeons general; assistant directors-general, regional directors, and country directors at the World Health Organization; state or city health leaders; public health and medical school faculty and deans. Others are leaders in industry, foundations, nongovernmental organizations, and medical writers for the news media.

### What EIS Officers Do

- [EIS officers work](#) alongside public health officials to investigate and control infectious disease outbreaks, respond to natural disasters, prevent and mitigate the effects of chronic diseases, environmental health threats, and injuries.
- When a public health authority requests CDC assistance, EIS officers can be rapidly deployed whenever and wherever they are needed in the world. EIS officers may deploy as a ready responder to CDC's Emergency Operations Center or a field site to provide epidemiologic assistance for disease outbreaks and other urgent public health threats.
- EIS has provided rapid response to urgent health threats for 70 years—from investigations of possible biological warfare during the Korean war, to the smallpox eradication campaign, to the discovery of Legionnaires' disease and Lassa fever, to responses to Hurricane Katrina and 9/11, the 2014 Ebola outbreak followed by Zika virus, and the 2017 hurricane season, and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- EIS officers:
  - Conduct outbreak investigations
  - Study infectious and chronic diseases, environmental and occupational health threats, injuries, birth defects, and developmental disabilities
  - Respond to natural disasters or other emerging public health threats
  - Design, implement, and evaluate surveillance systems
  - Analyze data to generate evidence-based recommendations to mitigate public health threats or promote health
  - Contribute to the development of public health guidelines
  - Develop skills to communicate effectively to scientific and non-scientific audiences through presentations, scientific manuscripts, educational videos and media interviews
- Officers benefit from:
  - Supervision and mentorship by experienced and dedicated experts

- Making a direct impact on domestic and global public health through investigative and analytic work that leads to public health recommendations, guidelines, and actions to control or prevent disease and promote health
- Taking on opportunities for life-changing hands-on experience
- CDC employment with competitive salary and benefits for the duration of the fellowship

## Numbers At a Glance



In any given year, CDC has 120-180 EIS officers across two classes.

- Officers are assigned through a competitive matching process to positions at CDC or state, tribal, local, or territorial health departments where they work on a range of public health issues.
- Positions at CDC tend to be more topic focused and positions at health departments require officers to work on a broader range of topics.
- Officers deploy more than 200 times each year to support field investigations for urgent public health problems.

## Qualification, Selection, and Application

- EIS works hard to attract, select, and train a diverse group of bright, flexible, and passionate professionals looking for opportunities to make a greater impact by working at CDC or at a state, territorial, tribal, or local health department.
- Highly skilled professionals from a variety of disciplines including the fields of nursing, human or veterinary medicine, pharmacy, public health sciences, and other doctoral-level professionals interested in applied epidemiology and public service are recruited annually.
  - CDC needs service-oriented people able to deploy on a moment's notice to work in dynamic and unpredictable environments under challenging conditions.
  - EIS is looking for individuals that can contribute to multi-disciplinary teams and work independently as needed.
- CDC takes the selection of EIS officers seriously because this program helps shape future generations of public health leaders. Each year, only about 60-90 EIS officers are selected among the 400-500 applications received. However, class sizes are expanding each year to meet the needs of our growing public health workforce.
- CDC is committed to increasing diversity, equity and inclusion in its fellowship classes through efforts including but not limited to expanded recruitment efforts, continuing education to ensure equitable selection of fellows, unconscious bias training for all staff, and conducting interviews virtually to remove financial barriers to applying.
- The application period for EIS opens annually in the spring.
  - Those selected begin the fellowship in July of the following year, after a month-long summer course.
  - EIS officers may be assigned to work in areas such as infectious disease, chronic disease, injury prevention, environmental health, or occupational health. Their assignments can be at CDC or at a state, tribal, territorial, or local health department.

- Assignments are determined through a matching process based on an EIS officer's interests and those looking to host (supervise) an EIS officer.
- Anyone applying to EIS must be prepared to relocate to Atlanta, GA, for EIS training. EIS officers may be assigned to state, tribal, territorial, or local health departments. Because all assignments are made through our competitive matching process, no geographic location other than Atlanta can be guaranteed after being accepted into EIS.

## Recommended Steps for Interested Candidates to Take

- Check the EIS website to learn the [eligibility criteria and required documentation](#) for applying to the program. The application period opens annually in the Spring.
- Attend the [annual EIS conference](#), whether you're eligible now or interested in applying in future years. There is no cost to register, and it's usually held in April/May in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference offers opportunities to:
  - Attend EIS officers' scientific presentations to learn about their work.
  - Meet with EIS officers and alumni to learn about their experiences and the work they go on to do after EIS.
  - Attend an interactive information session for prospective applicants to learn about the program and network with program staff and EIS officers.
  - The EIS conference is an opportunity for interested candidates to learn more about the EIS experience to consider whether the program will meet their training and learning goals. Select sessions may be recorded and offered online following the event.
- If you're eligible now and ready to become a disease detective, begin preparing your application in a way that you stand out among the highly competitive pool of applicants. We also recommend attending [informational webinars](#) for application tips and fellowship experiences.
- Check the [EIS website](#) often for the latest news and information, stories, and engagement opportunities.

## Learn About CDC Fellowship & Training Opportunities

- CDC offers numerous fellowships and training opportunities across many disciplines including health economics, informatics, laboratory science, and more. For a comprehensive look at all CDC fellowships and training opportunities, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/fellowships/>. Subscribe to the newsletter.
- Follow CDC's Fellowship & Training Opportunities [LinkedIn page](#).