

2018 Upstate Institute Summer Field School Fellowship

Title: Assessing the economic impact of a health care network in the Adirondack Park

Community Partner: Hudson Headwaters Health Network

Location: Queensbury, New York

A research project that will look at the economic impact of the Hudson Headwaters' business model in the Adirondack Park and in North Country communities. The project will focus on the impact that HH's business model has on a health center, group of health centers ("hub") or community.

Project Description:

Hudson Headwaters Health Network operates 18 Community health centers that provide patient-centered, high quality, cost-effective care in the Adirondack Park. As a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), they provide great value and impact to their local communities, including jobs and economic stimulus, savings to the health care system, and access to care for vulnerable populations. The Network wants to understand the economic impact of their service better by analyzing the direct, indirect and induced economic effects of health center business operations and capital project plans. A Fellow will conduct an economic impact analysis, applying a multiplier to estimate the impact of projects and expenditures on the local economy. The Fellow will be mentored by a faculty member at Colgate regarding the software and analysis and will work with Colgate's faculty and HH staff to select specific indicators that will best answer the research project goals and within the project's timeline.

About the Community Partner:

Hudson Headwaters Health Network is a nonprofit system of 17 community health centers providing primary care to more than 5,600 square miles of the Adirondack North Country and Glens Falls region. The network serves all of Warren County and parts of Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Saratoga and Washington counties. Hudson Headwaters is the sole medical provider in much of this rural, medically underserved region. In the Glens Falls area, Hudson Headwaters is the only primary care "safety-net" provider. Hudson Headwaters mission is to provide care to everyone in the communities they serve, regardless of income or insurance. HHHN practitioners care for more than 1,000 people a day, accounting for about 391,000 patient visits a year.

Required Skills:

The Fellow will need to have (or develop) strong research and numeracy skills that will allow them to handle complex data and apply mathematical and statistical analysis methods. The student will also need to have strong analytical skills in order to work with data and reach conclusions that will benefit the network and the larger Adirondack community. The student will need to work independently, enjoy meeting people and be flexible. The student will also need strong software skills.

Logistics:

This is a full-time paid research position (35 hours per week) to last approximately 10 weeks, conducted under the joint supervision of the Upstate Institute and the Hudson Headwaters Health Network, with additional mentorship provided by a member of the Colgate faculty. The Fellow will work out of the HHHN headquarters in Queensbury and travel to other locations.

Field School Fellows receive a research stipend of \$4500 plus reimbursement for any costs associated with transportation for this project. Housing can also be provided, if needed.