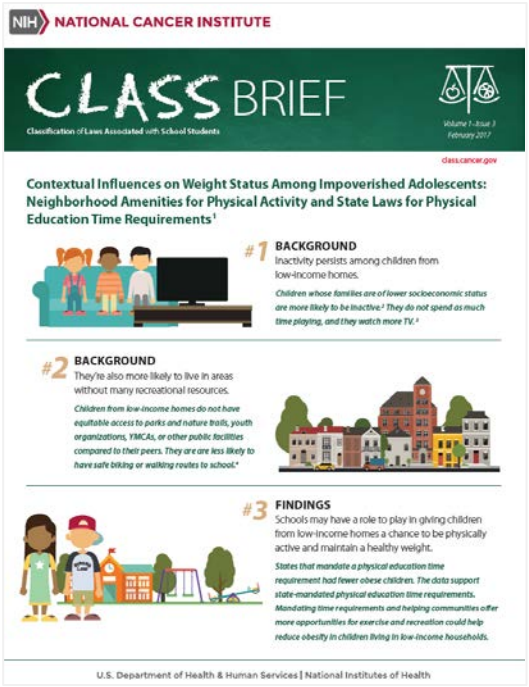
# Cancer Research Training Award
# Fellowship in Health Policy and Quantitative Methods

**November 2018**

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Behavioral Research Program (BRP) is pleased to invite applications from qualified candidates for a Cancer Research Training Award (CRTA) fellowship position in health policy and quantitative methods. The fellow will support research priorities in health policy associated with physical activity, nutrition, and tobacco control. Specific areas of focus will include analysis of data from NCI's Classification of Laws Associated with School Students (CLASS) project and research on tobacco control policies.


NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

CLASS BRIEF

Classification of Laws Associated with School Students

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class.cancer.gov

Contextual Influences on Weight Status Among Impoverished Adolescents: Neighborhood Amenities for Physical Activity and State Laws for Physical Education Time Requirements[1]

#1 BACKGROUND
Inactivity persists among children from low-income homes.

Children whose families are of lower socioeconomic status are more likely to be inactive.[2] They do not spend as much time playing, and they watch more TV.[3]

#2 BACKGROUND
They're also more likely to live in areas without many recreational resources.

Children from low-income homes do not have equitable access to parks and nature trails, youth organizations, YMCAs, or other public facilities compared to their peers. They are are less likely to have safe biking or walking routes to school.[4]

#3 FINDINGS
Schools may have a role to play in giving children from low-income homes a chance to be physically active and maintain a healthy weight.

States that mandate a physical education time requirement had fewer obese children. The data support state-mandated physical education time requirements. Mandating time requirements and helping communities offer more opportunities for exercise and recreation could help reduce obesity in children living in low-income households.

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School-based policy has important implications for public health and downstream implications for cancer risk and prevention. The CLASS project uses two policy classifications to score state-level codified laws for physical education and nutrition in U.S. schools. The scoring criteria for these systems are based on current public health research and national recommendations and standards. CLASS is an NCI resource for researchers to compare codified state laws in nutrition and physical education to national standards and assess differences across states over time. For more information, see https://class.cancer.gov/.

BRP is interested in observational or intervention-based research to reduce health disparities in tobacco use among vulnerable populations. Additionally, the Tobacco Use Supplement to the current Population Survey (TUS-CPS) provides multiple opportunities for secondary data analysis for scientific inquiry into the effects of tobacco control policies. For more information, see https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/tcrb/tus-cps/.

## Position Description

The CRTA fellow will work with NCI staff and other government partners, contractors, and academic collaborators to manage the CLASS project and conduct behavioral research related to health policy. The fellow will work independently and in teams to analyze data, present findings at scientific conferences, and publish results. The fellow will also inform web content, communication products, and dissemination plans.

Day-to-day activities include, but are not limited to:

- Conducting literature reviews and synthesizing scientific content;
- Developing analytical plans and performing data analyses using SPSS and/or SAS;
- Interpreting results from analyses and presenting those data;
- Contributing to scientific manuscripts, reports, and presentations;
- Analyzing research plans and aiding in the development of new projects;
- Reviewing written content, providing scientific text for websites, and informing research briefs; and
- Participating in meetings and engaging stakeholders.

A highly competitive applicant will be a self-starter at ease with taking initiative, and one who can play a major role collaborating within a research team to develop new projects and bring multiple ongoing projects to completion. Experience developing and executing analytical plans for behavioral data sets, interpreting results, and presenting results in oral and written communications is preferred.

The fellow may have the opportunity to attend national scientific conferences to present research results generated during the fellowship. For example, previous BRP fellows have presented at annual meetings of the American Public Health Association, the American Society of Preventive Oncology, and the Society of Behavioral Medicine.

## Qualifications

- Ph.D. or equivalent degree in disciplines such as biostatistics, epidemiology, quantitative methods, public health, behavioral science, sports medicine, health psychology, or related fields
    - A candidate with a master's degree with advanced training or certification in quantitative methods may also be considered
- Advanced skills in quantitative methods and research design
- A strong interest in statistical analysis of secondary data sources
- Proficient experience with statistical software such as SPSS and SAS
- Evidence of high potential for independent and collaborative scholarship
- Excellent organizational and project management skills

## Application Requirements

1. Cover letter describing interest in this fellowship and professional development and research goals
2. Resume or curriculum vitae
3. Two signed letters of reference on official letterhead
4. At least one peer-reviewed publication that demonstrates analytic proficiency and interpretation of results
5. Proof of U.S. citizenship (photocopy of birth certificate or passport)
6. Official transcript of highest degree conferred
7. Proof of academic good standing, if currently enrolled, on official letterhead signed by advisor or equivalent

Materials should be submitted via email to Kimberly Woodhouse at Kimberly.Woodhouse@NIH.gov and to BRP at ncidccpsbrpadvances@mail.nih.gov; paper copies and transcripts and/or proof of good standing must be mailed to:

Kimberly Woodhouse, ATTN: CLASS CRTA Fellowship
Health Behaviors Research Branch, Behavioral Research Program
Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute
9609 Medical Center Drive, 3E206
Rockville, MD 20850-9761

## Application Deadline and Position Start Date

This announcement will remain active until filled. The earliest possible start date is December 1, 2018.

## Stipend and Benefits

This position, based in Rockville, Maryland, is a one-year, full-time fellowship with possibility for renewal. Stipends for CRTA fellows are adjusted yearly and are commensurate with academic achievement and relevant experience. More information is available at https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/research/stipend.html. Benefits include health insurance at no cost and a wide range of career development activities.

## Program Contact

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