

BELIEVE AHEC Scholars Application Draft

Background

More than 25% of pregnancy-related deaths in the United States are tied to poor heart health, especially among women of color, putting both mothers-to-be and their babies at risk, according to the [American Heart Association Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics 2022 Update](#). To address this issue, the American Heart Association is funding a new \$20-million initiative comprised of a network of special projects focused on advancing the understanding of the factors underlying the disproportionate impact of maternal complications and deaths among Black women, Native American women, and those living in rural areas¹.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's joint collaboration with North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (N.C. A&T) in Greensboro, is among the five targeted research projects set to begin in July and run for the next four years to help implement change in health services for women of color. The Building Equitable Linkages with Interprofessional Education Valuing Everyone (BELIEVE) team is working with birthing people and healthcare workers to learn how collaboration can help us to work together better. We want to make healthcare workers and healthcare systems safer and build trust between birthing people and healthcare workers. We want to understand how these complicated problems in the health system harm pregnant people and healthcare workers, and we want to help fix them.

The goal of all this work is to make the healthcare system better so that every birthing person and healthcare worker is treated with respect and care. This goal is in alignment with both the White House's Maternal Health Blueprint² and North Carolina's Perinatal Health Strategic Plan³, which both include strategies to expand and diversify the perinatal workforce.

The BELIEVE project is providing this scholarship opportunity to support health professional students interested in entering the field of Maternal and Child Health (MCH). BELIEVE is offering **(3) \$1,000 need-based scholarships** to current junior and senior NC AHEC Scholars, to be available to use for the Fall 2023. This scholarship is intended to support education in MCH topics and can be used towards tuition for the next school year or a certification course.

While there are many wonderful, talented, and deserving people who do not belong to oppressed communities, the focus of the BELIEVE project is to promote the diversity of the MCH field to better serve historically marginalized communities. **Those eligible for this scholarship must identify as members of groups that have been historically marginalized.**

Demographics

Attestation:

- I identify as a member of at least one of these communities: Black, Indigenous, Person of Color, LGBTQ+ communities, disabled communities.
- First name:
- Last name:

- Address:
- Phone number:
- Email:
- Current College/ University:
- Intended school/ certification/ training program:
 - Cost of program:
- Please upload a copy of your resume or C/V
- List of extracurricular academic or community activities:

Submission

Instructions: In a 3–5-minute video please respond to the following prompt. This video should be uploaded to a public, online video sharing platform like YouTube or Vimeo and the link should be included in the submission of this application below. Creativity is highly encouraged. Please refer to the grading rubric following the prompt.

Prompt

What drives you to pursue and promote health equity in Maternal and Child Health (MCH)? Share what MCH-related activities, past and/or present, you are engaged with or would like to engage with? Please identify your need for this funding and how receiving this award assist you in meeting your career goals in MCH?

**** comment box for video url****

Please be sure to confirm the privacy settings to your video submission allows for public access and viewing. Inability to view your video may disqualify your application submission. If you have any difficulties with submitting this application, please contact the BELIEVE team at (insert email address)

Rubric

Application Presentation 10% 10 points total	Application is carefully completed and well presented. All aspects are complete and there are no issues with viewing the video submission. 10 points	Application is complete but greater attention to detail could have been provided to avoid typos. There are setting issues with viewing the video that can be resolved. 5 points	Application is incomplete. There are issues with reviewing the video that cannot be resolved. 0 points
Commitment and Interest in MCH and Health Equity 40%	The applicant answered the prompt in its entirety and provided a full picture of their interest in promoting	The applicant provided information that showed their interest in promoting health equity	The applicant did not answer the prompt entirely. 0 – 10 points

40 points total	Health Equity in MCH. The applicant demonstrated their career plans in the MCH field. 30 – 40 points	or their MCH plan, but greater attention to detail could have provided more clarity. 11 – 29 points	
Creativity/ Originality 30% 30 points total	The video submission is done with exceptional care and attention to detail. The applicant has expressed their passion for MCH and health equity in a unique and vibrant way. 20 – 30 points	The video submission is done with care and attention to detail. The applicant has expressed their passion for MCH and health equity in a unique and vibrant way. 19 – 11 points	Minimal effort was placed into the video submission. 0 – 10 points
Demonstrated Need 10% 10 points total	Financial need is clearly stated in the video submission.	Financial need is stated in the video submission, but more clarity is needed.	Financial need is not stated in the video submission.
Demonstrated Performance 10%	The applicant included a complete Resume/ CV and provided a comprehensive list of extracurricular activities that thoroughly demonstrate their academic career and community activities. 10 points	The applicant included a partial Resume/ CV and a list of extracurricular activities that thoroughly demonstrate their academic career and community activities. 5 points	The applicant did not include a Resume/ CV or list of extracurricular activities. 0 points

1. [UNC, N.C. A&T Team to Lead Project to Address Social Determinants of Health in Women of Color | Newsroom \(unchealthcare.org\)](#)
2. White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis. www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Maternal-Health-Blueprint.pdf
3. North Carolina Perinatal Health Strategic Plan 2022-2026. https://wicws.dph.ncdhhs.gov/phsp/docs/PerinatalHealthStrategicPlan-9-15-22_WEB.pdf