



|| USPHS Commissioned Corps



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) LABORATORY LEADERSHIP SERVICE (LLS) PROGRAM

What is LLS?

- A. CDC's Laboratory Leadership Service (LLS) was launched in 2015 to develop future public health laboratory leaders. LLS is a service-learning, multidimensional program that encompasses the competencies of applied public health laboratory research, laboratory operations and quality management, the science of biosafety, bioinformatics, advanced communications, and leadership training. A LLS fellow's training helps bridge applied laboratory science with public health, allowing fellows to provide daily mission-critical technical expertise and service to federal, state, and local public health laboratories and support public health investigations.

Who is eligible to apply for the LLS program?

- A. To be eligible for LLS, you must have:
- A doctoral-level degree in a laboratory related discipline (e.g., microbiology, molecular biology, organic chemistry, environmental chemistry, genetics, bioinformatics); other health professionals are welcome to apply, but must also hold a relevant doctoral-level degree, and
 - U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident status at the time of application
 - Must defend thesis or dissertation before March 31 of the year entering LLS



Contact the [LLS program](#) if you have any questions regarding eligibility.

What are the steps to apply for LLS program?

- A. The LLS program is a one-of-a-kind fellowship opportunity that bridges lab science and public health and delivers expert training in the competences required to lead a public health laboratory or program. It provides unparalleled opportunities for career growth and progression.

LLS fellows are selected from among highly qualified, eligible applicants drawn to public health service and interested in practical application of laboratory methods to a wide range of contemporary public health problems. To apply for LLS, you must:

- Be willing to commit to a 2-year, full-time program that begins in July with a month-long training in Atlanta, Georgia
- Be willing to relocate to your assignment. Assignments may be at a CDC headquarters laboratory in Atlanta; another CDC laboratory throughout the country; or a state, local, territorial, or tribal public health laboratory country.
- Meet the specified [eligibility requirements](#)

What work do LLS Fellows perform?

- A. Protecting the public's health and the safety is a coordinated effort. It takes experts from a range of health and science disciplines working together to address the public health threats we face in our communities and country at-large. Laboratory scientists are a critical link in this chain. The LLS program gives PhD scientists a unique opportunity to go beyond the bench for guided instruction and hands-on problem-solving alongside the elite corps of public health professionals that protect America's health and safety 24/7.

How do LLS Fellows make a difference?

- A. Whether on the front lines or behind the scenes, LLS fellows make a difference in public health. They travel to natural disaster areas to rebuild laboratory infrastructure and respond to international public health emergencies. They train other laboratorians on cutting-edge testing to derive impactful lab data from surveillance efforts and ensure a laboratory's quality systems are capable of producing high quality data. LLS fellows tackle public health problems by leading Lab-Aids or collaborating with Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officers during field investigations. On a daily basis, fellows lead cross-cutting projects at CDC, their host laboratory, or in the field



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that have direct and positive impacts on operations, scientific quality, and public health at-large.