The Community Alliance for Research and Engagement (CARE) was founded in 2007 at the Yale School of Public Health (YSPH) to identify solutions to health challenges through community action research. CARE is now co-housed at YSPH and SCSU. CARE’s mission is to improve the health in New Haven among people most impacted by disparities, including Black and Brown communities and low-income populations through collaborative research, practice, and engagement. For more information about CARE, please visit: https://www.carenhv.org/

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)

CARE received a REACH grant in the fall of 2018. REACH is a national program administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities among populations with the highest burden of chronic disease (hypertension, heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, and obesity) by addressing preventable risk behaviors (diet and physical activity). The CDC requires strategies and specific actions to build access for residents and systems change in three distinct areas: community-clinical linkages, nutrition, and physical activity.

Project Description

NHHL Graduate Fellows Role

Overseen by the CARE Community Engagement Coordinator, NHHL Graduate Fellows will provide programmatic support and have the following job responsibilities:

- Complete training on community-based participatory research
- Assist with revisions to training curriculum
- Assist the Community Engagement Coordinator with recruitment of New Haven residents for the program, which will include attending evening and weekend meetings and events
- Co-learn with residents about Community-Based Participatory Research, community organizing methods, and implementing community health interventions
- Work alongside the resident partners on a neighborhood-level health project, which may include project management, meeting coordination/facilitation and data collection in a community setting
- Build relationships with other neighborhood leaders and stakeholders
- Conduct outreach about neighborhood-level projects and other CARE-related projects
- Collect data for program evaluation of NHHL
- Complete data entry
- Assist with other research-related activities, such as IRB applications and manuscript preparation
- Complete other duties as assigned

REACH Graduate Student Fellowship
2020-2022
Position will remain open until filled. Applications reviewed on a rolling basis.
**Food Access & Supporting Wellness at Pantries (SWAP)**

SWAP is a nutrition ranking system, developed by Foodshare, the University of Saint Joseph, and the UCONN Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity, to promote healthy options at food pantries by ranking healthy vs. unhealthy foods with a simple stoplight system. With support from REACH Food Access Fellows, pantry directors and key volunteers will be trained to categorize food offered during pantry hours, physically re-structure the pantry (as needed), and inform future food ordering guidelines.

**Food Access Fellows Role**

Overseen by the REACH Project Manager, Food Access Fellows will provide programmatic support and have the following job responsibilities:

- Complete SWAP and other job-specific training
- Develop partnerships with food pantries in New Haven
- Train food pantry staff on SWAP
- Categorize and label food offered during pantry hours and reorganize food pantry, as needed, according to SWAP guidelines
- Identify SWAP champions at food pantries and support these individuals in leading SWAP implementation in their respective pantry
- Attend team meetings and pantry meetings on a regular basis
- Coordinate and order materials and supplies for program implementation
- Support food pantries in troubleshooting SWAP implementation and in developing a sustainability plan for SWAP
- Collect data and complete process tracking forms for program evaluation of SWAP
- Assist with organizing healthy food drives through #GiveHealthy
- Support the REACH Project Manager in recruiting and onboarding additional food pantries interested in implementing SWAP
- As needed, complete data entry

**Expectations and Eligibility Criteria**

Students will apply to become a REACH Graduate Student Fellow. The fellowship is available from Fall 2020 (start date ASAP) – May 2022 and preference will be given to students who can commit to the entire time frame.

Graduate students enrolled full- or part-time at SCSU are eligible to apply. Preference may be given to students who have knowledge of New Haven or who are from New Haven/the priority neighborhoods.

Students will be required to work through the winter and summer semesters for the full calendar year.

For the duration of the fellowship, students will be expected to:

- Work 10 hours per week
- Work year-round (academic semester, summer, winter intersession)
- Provide their own transportation to/from food pantries and offices
- Maintain a consistent schedule
- Have daytime, evening, and weekend availability during food pantry hours.
• Work independently in community settings
• Take initiative on project tasks

Qualifications
• Ability to speak in front of large groups
• Strong writing skills
• Experience working with diverse populations

Compensation
• Students will be paid $15/hour for 10 hours per week as a student worker.
• As part of the fellowship, students can potentially receive academic credits during the academic year, if needed for graduation. Students must work with their academic advisor to determine how credit should be applied: internship, independent study, special project, thesis, etc. Students are responsible for understanding and applying the following components of their individual program of study:
  o Registration deadlines
  o Credit load requirements (i.e., # of credits that would require an irregular schedule)
  o Program requirements
• Students are responsible for the cost of the credits.

To Apply
• Please complete the attached application and send completed application with all supporting materials to Devin Avshalom-Smith: avshalomsmd1@southernct.edu
• Please note that electronic signatures are acceptable.
REACH Graduate Student Fellowship

Application Checklist and Certification Statement – Form 1

Please do not include materials other than those listed below. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Prior to submission, please review and checkmark each of the items below, and submit forms in this order:

Application Checklist

☐ Application Checklist and Certification Statement – Form 1
☐ Student Application – Form 2
☐ Student Statement of Purpose – Form 3
☐ Student resume

Certification and Agreement to Expectations

I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete. I pledge to conduct myself with the highest personal and professional demeanor, and maintain the highest ethical standards and academic integrity. I understand that the REACH Graduate Student Fellowship position may be withdrawn if I do not fulfill all of the associated responsibilities.

I understand and agree to adhere to the following expectations for the duration of the fellowship:

- Work a minimum of 10 hours per week
- Work year-round (academic semester, summer, winter intersession)
- Maintain a consistent schedule
- Have daytime, evening, and weekend availability for food pantry hours, specifically:
  - Tuesday – morning/afternoon
  - Wednesday mornings
  - Thursday mornings
  - Saturday mornings
- Work independently in community settings
- Take initiative on project tasks

Printed Name of Applicant: ______________________________________________________________

Signature of Applicant: ____________________________ Date: __________

(mm/dd/yyyy)
REACH Graduate Student Fellowship
Student Application – Form 2

Student ID#: ____________________________

Name: _______________________________________________________________________________

Last First Middle

Current Address: ______________________________________________________________________

Number Street

City State Zip

Phone Number(s): (________)___________________________ (Cell)

(________)___________________________ (Home or other)

Email Address(es): 1.___________________________________ (SCSU email)

2.___________________________________ (Other email)

Academic Department: __________________________________________________________________

Degree or Program: ____________________________________________________________________

Current Status:      ☐ Full-time Graduate Student    ☐ Part-time Graduate Student

What is your availability for the REACH Graduate Student Fellowship? Please check all that apply.

☐ Fall 2020      ☐ Spring 2021
☐ Fall 2021      ☐ Spring 2022

Are you from or do you currently reside in one of the following New Haven neighborhoods?

☐ Dixwell     ☐ Newhallville    ☐ West Rock/West Hills
☐ The Hill     ☐ Fair Haven     ☐ West River/Dwight

If yes, how long have you/did you live there? ____________________(years/months)

☐ I am not from nor do I reside in any of the above New Haven neighborhoods.
Are you from or do you currently reside in the City of New Haven?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, how long have you/did you live there? ____________________(years/months)

Are you proficient in any language other than English?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, which language(s)? ____________________________________________________

If you are not selected to be a REACH Graduate Student Fellow at this time, would you like to be included in our volunteer database so we may contact you about future volunteer opportunities with CARE?

☐ Yes  ☐ No
REACH Graduate Student Fellowship

Student Statement of Purpose – Form 3

Name of Applicant: ________________________________________________________________

Academic Department: __________________________________________________________________

Instructions: Using a maximum of 1,500 words, please respond to the following:

a) Why do you aspire to participate in the REACH Graduate Student Fellowship as a Food Access Fellow?

b) Please discuss how your past experiences and current knowledge make you uniquely qualified to serve as a REACH Graduate Student Fellow working on SWAP.

c) Finally, explain how serving as a REACH Graduate Student Fellow aligns with your career goals.

Attach your statement to this form.
REACH Graduate Student Fellowship

Application Assessment Criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess all applications:

1. Alignment of the student statement of purpose with the mission and goals of REACH and CARE overall.

2. Ability of the student to clearly state their motivations for participating in the fellowship, their qualifications to be a REACH fellow, and alignment of the fellowship with their career goals. Overall, does the student make a compelling case for why they should be a REACH fellow?

3. Ability of the student to fulfill expectations of fellowship.

4. Knowledge of New Haven, as evidenced by New Haven residency and/or experience working in the priority neighborhoods.

5. Overall assessment of the student application. Taking all elements into consideration, the general strength of the application will be assessed.