



Community Champion – Mon Valley Hello Baby Priority

The key role of the Community Champions is to inspire, inform and encourage. Using the Community Health Worker model, Community Champions are trained to be leaders in their local area. They take action to improve the conditions of their community, with a focus on those that improve health, through their support of the **Hello Baby Priority** development and implementation. The community champion also rallies fellow community members to engage in support and training that will build their confidence and skills to challenge systems that create poor health outcomes within their own communities.

This is a temporary, contractual, project-based role. Applicant must be a current resident of the Mon Valley (see <https://www.hscc-mvpc.org/hscc/communities/> for a full list of communities) and have had residency for the past three years or more. We request at least a one-year commitment to the project.

Common activities of the Champion include:

- Engaging residents around the Hello Baby project
- Educating parents of babies from birth through 3 years old on health and health disparities, and encouraging strong family relationships, and healthy babies and parents
- Encouraging and inspiring participants to join Hello Baby programming
- Participating in learning activities around public health, social determinants of health and maternal and child health
- Making links with existing groups and networks that may want to be involved in the Hello Baby Priority, including professional organizations
- Helping others in the community identify local issues related to health and the social determinants of health, as well as leading advocacy efforts
- Leading and facilitating resident groups around devising ideas and projects to improve community conditions and health
- Running community events as part of a group or network in association with the Hello Baby Priority project
- Providing information about Hello Baby work and current campaigns to the community and its stakeholders
- This is not an exhaustive list, but provides ideas on the types of activities that the Community Champion will lead.

Training and support:

The position requires a commitment to attending a one-day orientation at Healthy Start, a one-day community partner training to be scheduled in summer, 2020, and must attend all Hello Baby stakeholder and community meetings (estimated 1-2 times/month). After the training there will be on-

going support and mentoring from Healthy Start, Hello Baby staff. Additionally, a laptop and cell phone will be provided to support this role.

Time Commitment:

The time commitment for this role is estimated to be approximately 8 hours per week. A monthly stipend of \$500 will be provided for as long as the Community Champion is able to maintain commitment to the project. Activities related to this role may take place during the day, in the early evening, weekends and may also include occasional travel. Following initial training, the Champion will be expected to participate co-operatively and maintain regular contact with Healthy Start staff.

Location:

As a Community Champion you will be active throughout the Mon Valley area, as well as complete work at the Healthy Start-Turtle Creek office. There may also be national events or meetings (optional) presented as an opportunity for professional growth and development; likely to occur with advance notice a few times a year.

What we are looking for in a Community Champion:

- Passion for women and children, and community health
- Strong connection and relationships with Mon Valley residents and community partners
- Lived experience related to the focus of the project
- Leadership skills
- Ability to communicate, build relationships and work as part of a team
- Ability to give group presentations
- Good problem solving and conflict management skills
- Good organizational and time-keeping skills
- Basic computer/administrative skills and knowledge
- Ability to record data from events and report writing
- Experience of working with others in a group setting, ideally with people with lived experience
- Experience of designing and delivering community based events
- Commitment towards improving the conditions of Mon Valley communities
- Ability to be flexible and take initiative
- Commitment to personal development and participating in reflective practice
- Commitment to spending time with others on an action project in your community
- Willingness to travel within the specified area

These skills will be supported with ongoing training and professional development opportunities.

Recruitment:

Please send your completed Hello Baby Priority – Community Champion application to Meagan Niebler, Program Director, Hello Baby Priority, at mniebler@hsipgh.org. Be sure to answer all questions on the application below. They can be answered in written format but other forms of submission are welcome as well. The application deadline is April 1, 2020.

Examples of alternative submission formats include video, song, poetry and/or story telling. *Please indicate if you require any accommodations, or if you prefer to schedule a call as your submission. Please limit any forms of writing to 1 page.*

For questions, contact Meagan at mniebler@hsipgh.org or 412-224-0539.

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Mon Valley Community Champion Application

We'd Like to get to know you!

Please answer the following questions:

What do you love about your neighborhood?

Given the opportunity, what is one thing that you would like to strengthen or improve about your neighborhood?

How does that thing impact the health of community members either directly or indirectly?

Please describe a time or experience when you were involved in your community in any capacity.

How did that experience prepare you to be a Community Champion?

Is there anything else you would like us to consider?