

Frequently Asked Questions About the Laboratory Leadership Service (LLS)

What is LLS?

The CDC Laboratory Leadership Service (LLS) provides early career laboratory scientists with a strong foundation for future leadership and management positions in public health laboratories. The fellowship furthers CDC's and partners' commitment to advancing laboratory biosafety and quality.

The LLS is a 2-year laboratory fellowship program that combines competency-based public health laboratory training with practical, applied investigations and service. LLS focuses on biosafety, quality management systems, and management and leadership competencies.

What do LLS fellows do?

LLS fellows work in CDC laboratories and serve the agency and its partners by providing creative and effective approaches to real world public health laboratory issues. LLS fellows:

- Design, implement, or evaluate public health laboratory biosafety practices and quality management systems
- Conduct cutting-edge applied public health laboratory research (e.g., evaluate new diagnostic tests or apply bioinformatics to analyze complex laboratory data)
- Conduct laboratory components of public health investigations
- Respond to emerging public health threats
- May study infectious and chronic diseases, environmental and occupational health threats, birth defects, and developmental disabilities

What do LLS fellows learn?

LLS fellows learn through both classroom and on-the-job experience in this public health laboratory competency-based training program. LLS fellows:

- Learn to apply competencies to solve public health laboratory challenges, while also learning best practices and advanced laboratory techniques
- Gain broad knowledge in biosafety, quality management systems, management and leadership, and other public health topics such as public health law and ethics
- Receive communication and media training that can be used while representing CDC in media interviews

LLS fellows attend regular seminars and annual conferences, where they present findings from their investigations and studies. Through these events, LLS fellows:

- Develop their presentation skills
- Disseminate findings of their work to direct public health action
- Network with other CDC fellows and a variety of public health professionals

Who is eligible to apply?

- Scientists with a:
 - doctoral-level degree in a laboratory related discipline (e.g., microbiology, molecular biology, organic chemistry, environmental chemistry, genetics, bioinformatics)
 - minimum of 2 years of post-graduate laboratory experience (e.g., serving as a laboratory scientist in clinical, public health, research, or industry laboratory), in addition to any laboratory work done as a part of graduate training
- U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident status

Where do LLS fellows work?

- LLS fellows are assigned to work in CDC laboratories, and may be located at headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia or at other CDC locations across the United States
- LLS fellows may be sent to a domestic or international location on a temporary assignment. At this time, no LLS fellows are based in state, local, or international locations

What are the benefits of being an LLS fellow?

During the 2-year fellowship program, LLS fellows:

- Are employed by CDC
- Receive a salary and benefits
- Are mentored and supervised by experienced, dedicated, and enthusiastic world-class laboratory scientists and other public health professionals
- Train alongside other fellows at CDC (including Epidemic Intelligence Service officers) to promote interdisciplinary interactions and networking
- Have many opportunities for front-line, hands-on work
- Have direct impact on domestic and global population health and well-being

What's after LLS?

- Building upon acquired biosafety, quality management, and leadership competencies, LLS fellowship graduates will be prepared to pursue public health laboratory careers—at CDC and elsewhere
- Although LLS training will not satisfy all requirements, LLS graduates will be better prepared to pursue biosafety or laboratory director certifications

Additional questions?

E-mail LLS@cdc.gov