The Philadelphia Department of Public Health is seeking a highly qualified candidate to serve as Director of the Division of Maternal, Child, and Family Health. This leadership position is responsible for managing this division and, more generally, for establishing and implementing a strategy to improve the health of women, children, and families in Philadelphia.

The City

Philadelphia, a diverse city of 1.6 million people, boasts some of the leading educational and medical institutions in the country. Over decades, the city has lost many traditional manufacturing jobs and now has the highest poverty rate of any big city in the nation, which means that many suffer from the adverse health consequences of poverty. Poverty places a particularly heavy burden on children and families. With the City economy now rebounding, the health department has the opportunity to help children and families enjoy the health benefits of that recovery and prevent the inter-generational transfer of poverty.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), with some 900 staff and a budget of $350 million, promotes and protects the health of all Philadelphians and provides a safety net for the most vulnerable. The agency leads programs to prevent communicable diseases (including HIV, other STDs, tuberculosis, and vaccine-preventable diseases); prevent chronic diseases and promote healthy behaviors; prevent environmental health risks; investigate outbreaks of disease; respond to public health emergencies; and promote the health of women, children, and families. In addition, the department operates eight primary care clinics. Recently, the department has participated with other City agencies in responding to Philadelphia’s opioid crisis. PDPH has been an innovator in public health, proposing policy solutions to problems like smoking and obesity, and intends to continue that tradition with creative solutions to both long-standing urban health problems and new crises.

The Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health (MCFH)

The Division of Maternal, Child, and Family Health (MCFH) has the lead responsibility to improve the health of childbearing women and help every child in Philadelphia get a healthy start in life. MCFH oversees the federally-funded Healthy Start initiative and Maternal & Child Health Services Block Grant (Title V) from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Other key programs involve promoting breast-feeding, providing home visiting for high-risk infants, coordinating perinatal care with social services in department health centers,
conducting maternal and child fatality reviews, and surveillance for congenital infections and birth defects. MCFH currently has a budget of approximately $6 million in local, state, and federal funds. However, the Division’s reach is greater than these funds and programs, because MCFH works collaboratively with many other governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations and health care providers with similar missions to improve the health of women and children. For example, to help the City’s most vulnerable infants, this Division is currently leading a group to establish a central intake hub for many existing home visiting programs. In addition, the Department has developed a collaborative strategy to improve the health of children under the age of five, called A Running Start – Health, which guides initiatives to reduce sleep-related deaths, developmental delays, obesity, asthma, and injuries. Among other initiatives coming from this strategy, the Division launched a Baby Book Club in the summer of 2018. Finally, the Division is strengthening its ability to measure and evaluate health initiatives with stronger data systems. In particular, the Department of Public Health is conducting a local version of the CDC’s Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, which will provide invaluable data for improving prenatal and infant care. And the Department is establishing a ground-breaking population-level surveillance system for early child development, based on standardized screening results from electronic health records.

**Responsibilities**

The Director for Maternal, Child, and Family Health will be responsible for:

- Managing existing programs in the Division, including those listed in the section above;
- Managing a home visiting program for high risk infants;
- Leading efforts to establish a central intake hub for infant home visiting programs for the entire city;
- Serving as the lead the for promotion of access to and utilization of contraceptive services and prenatal care in Philadelphia;
- Managing the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review, a process to learn from and prevent future perinatal and infant fatalities;
- Leading the implementation of A Running Start – Health, the agency’s strategic plan to improve the health of young children, which will involve collaboration with a wide range of other City agencies, such as the Department of Human Services and the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Services, as well as nonprofit organizations focused on children;
- Working with the Pennsylvania Department of Health on the Title V federal Maternal and Child Health program.

**Qualifications**

We are looking for a leader with:

- An understanding of the determinants of the health of women and children, and the ability to articulate a vision and strategy to promote their health
- The ability to lead collaborative efforts with diverse partners to attain common goals
- Experience and skills in managing programs to promote the health of populations
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Experience taking the lead in writing federal or state grant applications
• Skills in data analysis and in using quantitative data for decision-making
• Ability to provide administrative and budgetary oversight to the division
• At least six years of experience working on maternal, child, or family health issues.

Candidates should have graduate degree(s) in medicine, public health, or a related field.

**Position Details**

The Director of Maternal, Child, and Family Health will report to Deputy Commissioner Dr. Caroline Johnson. This will be an appointed Civil Service position. The salary will depend on experience and the range of salaries for persons with similar backgrounds and responsibilities within Philadelphia city government. The position is available immediately.

**Inquiries**

Send electronically: a resume, the names of two references, and a relevant writing sample to:

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