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*Leadership & Culture: Community Empowerment Institute*

*Emerging Leaders Program*

**What is the program?**

* The *Emerging Leaders* program is aimed at building diversity and capacity in the workforce for behavioral health services, especially within under-represented communities.
* This is a six-month program designed to prepare the next generation of behavioral health leaders (Emerging Leaders) in the African American, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian, Middle Eastern/Northern African; Native American/Alaskan Native, and minority LGBTQ2S+ communities.
* This is part of our commitment to develop behavioral health leaders within these communities.
* Established leaders from these respective communities develop the curriculum of this program which focuses on cultural and community traditions, strengths, resources, and challenges.

**What does it mean to participate in the program?**

* Emerging Leaders will attend three in-person, two-day meetings focused on cultural and professional development.
* Each Emerging Leader will be paired with a mentor (an established behavioral health professional) from their respective community for the duration of the program.
* Each Emerging Leader will work directly with their mentor, along with support from trainers and DHS staff, throughout the six-month program to develop and complete a project to present at the program’s graduation ceremony in October.

**Why**

* We believe that all people in Wisconsin should have optimum health.
* Mental health and substance use are crucial factors in the health and well-being of each member of our communities.
* Increasing representation and diversity among leadership within the behavioral health workforce is crucial to improving care and behavioral health services.
* We are committed to addressing the inequity and disparity that hinder the health of all Wisconsinites.

**How, Where, and When?**

* Three day immersion training - April 2020, Milwaukee
* One day booster session - June 2020 Lac du Flambeau, Lake of the Torches
* Graduation ceremony, where emerging leaders present their project - October 2020, Wisconsin Dells
* All travel (mileage reimbursement) and lodging (hotels), as well as some meals, are provided

**Questions? Please contact Allison Weber: allison.weber@dhs.wisconsin.gov**