

## *Tulane University Maternal and Child Public Health Leadership Training Program*

### Identifying your dream job and writing a description

When you think about your public health career, where do you envision yourself? Include location and salary in your description. What does the job description for a leader look like? Or can any job become a vehicle for leadership? The following questions are intended to guide you through developing a job description.

1. What populations do you plan to work with?
2. What kind of organization do you plan to work with? A non-profit in the public sector? A for-profit hospital or company? The federal, state, or local government? In an academic environment?
3. Do you want to be in charge of an organization? Or do you want to have a supervisor?
4. Do you like to work independently or collaboratively?
5. Would you prefer developing programs for populations, impacting thousands of people, or working with and treating individual clients?
6. Do you prefer to have direct evidence of the impact of your job or are you satisfied with more abstract results?
7. Do you want to be in the field or primarily in an office?
8. Will family responsibilities require job flexibility?
9. Are you willing to write grants?
10. Do you enjoy data analysis and synthesizing study results?
11. Are you interested in politics? Do you enjoy lobbying?
12. Do you enjoy teaching?
13. Do you enjoy working with the media?
14. Do you enjoy the details of projects or prefer to have a “big picture” view?
15. Do you like to work with people from many different disciplines?
16. Do you like to travel for work?
17. Do you like to present at and attend conferences?
18. Do you like high-pressure situations?
19. Are you interested in a career with a research focus?
20. Does this job require a certain degree or certification?

Potential resources in answering these questions for yourself include *Advancing Health Populations: The Pfizer guide to Careers in Public Health* (available online) and the public health job advertisements distributed by Kathy Ball in career services.