

National Indian Health Board Health Policy Fellowship



Ryann Monteiro

Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah
2018-19 National Indian Health Board
Health Policy Fellow

Hometown: Rochester, MA

Education: B.S. in Health Services from University of Rhode Island (2016), current Master of Public Health student at Boston University

What motivated me to apply to be a NIHB Health Policy Fellow is that although I am passionate about community health, I know that health policy is often the backbone of community health. I hope to strengthen my policy and advocacy skills through this fellowship. Although I have educational training in health policy, I would like to gain hands on experience in the field.

As a recent graduate, my short term goals include becoming a Certified Health Education Specialist and gaining more experience in my area of interest, food security.

My long term goal is to serve wherever I am called, in whatever capacity that is needed. I don't like to limit to myself to only a few options or career paths as my interests, skills, and experiences can lead me to do multiple things that will fulfill me.

My advice to anyone interested in working to improve the health of their people is to listen to your people. Don't forget that improving their health is about them. You may have great ideas with all of the evidence to support why your community should take on a policy or

initiative, but if it doesn't speak to them, it will never work. Be evidence based but people centered.