

We're looking for a writer to cover health care acting as both a general assignment reporter and to cover one specific topic - oral health - for NC Health News. www.northcarolinahealthnews.org

We are one of North Carolina's growing group of online-only publications, a member of the NC Press Association and recognized for our high-quality reporting (including winning multiple NCPA prizes). Our readership grew by 15 percent last year, and we anticipate that we'll grow even more this coming year.

For years, we've covered the legislature, state government and health care trends in the North Carolina and this is a solid opportunity to get out and build a health care beat from the ground up, to delve into the issues and to do stories that no one else in the state is doing.

A good candidate will have a license and a car and a willingness to travel some of North Carolina's backroads, an ability to talk to anyone and at least some experience (if you're a graduate of a journalism program, that'll work). This is **not** a position for someone who is primarily an academic writer. We are not prepared to teach you to write a lede or a nut graf. We need you to have a solid grasp of journalism basics on day one.

Knowledge of health care or science is a huge plus. Knowledge of/ experience with multimedia or social media are also big plus (send examples).

This is not a job where you write about "10 ways to control your diabetes," rather one where you might track explore what it means for someone with diabetes not to have access to dental services, where you might visit a county jail to report on what prisoners do when they have a toothache, or visit a local health clinic to see how providers are getting oral health services to folks on Medicaid. You'll be talking to dentists, local health officials, sure, but you need to also get out and meet people who are being affected by North Carolina's shocking lack of dental services in rural areas. You should be familiar with making public records requests and examining the data that comes back to you.

We'll help you find those first stories, we have the contacts and some ideas of where you need to go. But as time goes on, you'll be expected to develop contacts and story ideas in the communities where you visit.

This is an hourly job at a competitive salary (depending on experience and clips). The expectation is that you'll spend about 20 hours per week reporting stories, getting out into communities, and talking to lots of people. Your travel expenses are covered. We have some relationships with national media outlets that can also provide you with additional income if the story is right. This is a grant funded position that runs through 2019, but as we're growing, there will likely be opportunities for continued work with NC Health News in 2020.

You'll be part of a small but energized team of reporters and editors and you'll get intensive mentoring/ editing of your work. Your work will be published in North Carolina Health News, and will often be carried by our state-based partner organizations and a few national partners.

Send a cover email of interest, along with a resume and links to 3 published stories to editor at northcarolinahealthnews dot org

WE WILL ONLY CONSIDER YOUR APPLICATION IF YOU INCLUDE A RESUME AND THREE WRITING SAMPLES. Academic writing samples (e.g. studies or papers you wrote for class) are **not** acceptable. Samples need to be of published materials. Do not call or you will be immediately disqualified.

We are looking to hire someone to start in the new year.

NC Health News is an equal opportunity employer, women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply.