

Rapid-Cycle Learning (RCL) in University of Minnesota Center for Public Health Systems (CPHS)



What improvement strategy did you test?

- Onboarding process for local public health departments to host public health student interns over the summer



What data did you collect and analyze?

- Surveys of student and host site staff about application and orientation processes



What did you learn about your improvement strategy?

- The program can increase health department capacity
- Health departments need assistance identifying well-defined, meaningful projects for student interns
- Projects should be developed first, and students should apply to specific projects of interest two months before intended start date



What evidence-informed decisions did you make?

- A different UMN office will adapt the program next year
- We shared suggested adaptations, such as developing the project first and letting students apply well before their intended start date



How has your participation in Project Impact added value to your organization?

- We were able to pilot a program for students to have meaningful opportunities for practice-based experiences
- CPHS has a template for conducting rapid-cycle evaluations for future programs



What are your future plans for rapid-cycle learning?

- Use the evaluation processes developed for any future practice-based projects



What would you recommend to others interested in using rapid-cycle learning?

- Identify specific dates and points in the project for conducting evaluations
- Budget staff time and resources to follow-up on any improvement items you might identify



“We had two students working on two different projects [. . .] Their contributions filled gaps in foundational areas of our work.”

- Local public health preceptor

