

# Community Engagement Coordinator

**ASHLEY MARK**

MDHHS – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BUREAU



I got my bachelor's degree in environmental science, with no expectation of pursuing a career in public health. After landing at MDHHS, I quickly came to understand the critical linkage between environment and health. Education is important for people of all ages and we need more educators who are passionate about their subject matter!



## What does a typical day look like for you?

- Reaching out to new and existing community partners to share new environmental health resources.
- Attending networking events, offering presentations, and offering environmental health education in remote and in-person settings.
- Responding to resident and partner questions pertaining to various environmental health topics.



## What soft skills are important?

Communication, Public Speaking, Writing, Problem-Solving, Time Management



## What are possible career progression steps?

There are opportunities to advance to management roles or to explore other job opportunities within MDHHS or other state agencies.



## What are the most challenging aspects of this career?

- Variable daily and weekly schedule and activities.
- Response work – usually fast-paced.



## What are the most rewarding aspects?

- Providing education to residents across the state, including youth.
- Serving residents as a public health practitioner!



## What level of education is typically required?

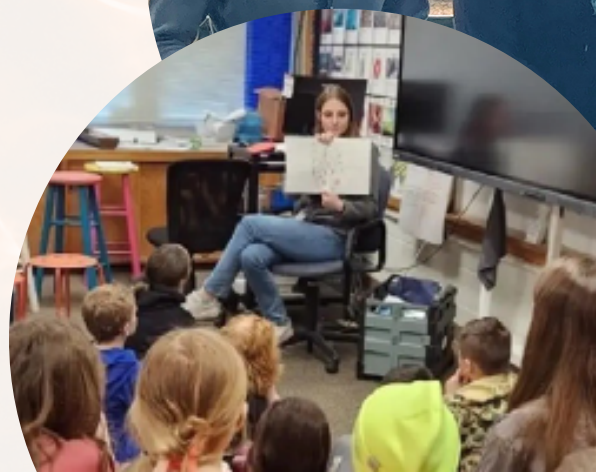
A Bachelors Degree. Many of those in my position (including myself) have a master's degree, though not required. Most common is a master's in public health.



## Are there specific fields of study that are most relevant?

- Public Health
- Environmental Health
- Environmental Science

Some community engagement coordinators specialize in specific program areas. For example, I specialize in drinking water, specifically education for private well owners and youth.



This work inspired me to get my master's degree in public health. I love seeing the direct impact that the work I do has on individuals across Michigan.