



Yale University President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2017

- Organization: **All Our Kin**
- Full street address of organization: **414A Chapel Street, Suite 100, New Haven, CT 06511**
- Website: **www.allourkin.org**
- Name and title of the Direct Supervisor: **Kara Wevers, Early Head Start Director**
- Phone number and e-mail address of Direct Supervisor: **203-772-2294 x 17; kara@allourkin.org**
- Placement dates: **Flexible; 10 weeks**
- Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe: **Yes; Fellow may complete 10 weeks any time between May 30 and August 11**
- Hours of the program: **9:00am – 5:00pm**

Placement Description

- Organization description (*Mission statement, population served. 150 words or less.*):



All Our Kin invests in women who are dedicated to the well-being of children in their communities, taking an innovative approach to solving the crisis in child care and early learning that results from an acute lack of quality, affordable care for infants and toddlers across the nation. All Our Kin provides the training, resources, and support that these women need to become early childhood professionals and create enriching child care programs in home-based settings.

Through our programs, family child care providers succeed as business owners; working parents find stable, high-quality care for their children; and children gain an educational foundation that lays the groundwork for achievement in school and beyond. We serve a network of over 400 family child care providers who ensure that more than 2,400 young children are safe, loved, and learning. We currently have offices in New Haven, Bridgeport, and Stamford, and are on the cusp of regional expansion.

- Please write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting (*50 words or less. This will be used as your agency's project description summary on the PPSF website, so please be succinct*):

All Our Kin's Early Head Start program provides free or low-cost, quality child care for eligible infants and toddlers, as well as comprehensive supports for both the children and their families such as health services and job preparation. The PPSF will work to strengthen and support our Early Head Start family engagement initiatives.

- Please write a complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow. (*Suggested length: one to two pages.*)

The President’s Public Service Fellow will work closely with All Our Kin’s Early Head Start team to strengthen family engagement initiatives so that families in the program feel welcomed as members of a strong, active, and supportive community.

Our Early Head Start program provides free or low-cost, quality child care for eligible infants and toddlers in New Haven, West Haven, and Hamden. We connect families to family child care programs that are neighborhood-based, culturally diverse, and offer flexible, full-day, full-year programming. In addition, Early Head start connects the children, families, and child care providers in the program to a plethora of comprehensive supports and services, which result in critical benefits to each group.

Benefits to Children:

- **Access to high-quality care in an engaging and loving environment**
- **Close monitoring of health and wellbeing as well as social, behavioral, physical, emotional, and cognitive development**
- **Partnerships with local early intervention programs, such as CT Birth to Three, to serve infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities**

Benefits to Families:

- **Collaboration between staff and families to support children’s ongoing development and learning**
- **Assistance obtaining physical, mental, and oral health services for children**
- **Connections to housing, food, and income supports**
- **Opportunities to build community and develop leadership skills**
- **Individualized support from a Family Advocate**

Benefits to Child Care Providers:

- **Pay at rates that are higher, and fairer, than those currently available through the state’s child care subsidy program**
- **Materials, supplies, and quality enhancement funds**
- **Individualized professional development plans and access to regular trainings**
- **Program visits, mentoring, and ongoing support from nurse consultants, child development specialists, and other Early Head Start team members**

Family engagement is a critical component of All Our Kin's Early Head Start program. Many of the families in our program come to us with very little resources or support available to them. Through our Early Head Start program, we aim to incorporate them into a community that will help them achieve stability and success. The contributions of the President's Public Service Fellow will be crucial in helping All Our Kin strengthen its family engagement initiatives.

A successful Fellow will:

- Plan and implement events for Early Head Start families
- Assist in recruiting new families to the program
- Strengthen existing community partnerships and actively build new partnerships to expand our offering of supports and services
- Organize donation drives

The Fellow will have a great deal of flexibility and creativity related to designing new family engagement initiatives. We welcome a Fellow who will take initiative to improve the experiences of families in our Early Head Start program.

By the conclusion of the Fellowship, the Fellow will have enhanced the quality and quantity of family supports and services offered through All Our Kin's Early Head Start program, and created a replicable process to manage logistics for events and donation drives. In the process, we are confident that the Fellow will gain an in-depth



understanding of the issues faced by low-income families in the New Haven area; learn how to engage these issues in meaningful ways; and experience the excitement and challenges that come with working in a growing non-profit that strives for high quality and high impact.

- Specific skills/experience required for the project (*Please list*):
 - Self-motivated
 - Strong written and verbal communication skills
 - Strong organizational skills
 - Cultural competence

- **Commitment to social justice and early childhood education**
- **Bilingual English/Spanish preferred**
- Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours). If a car is required, please include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement):

A car is helpful but not required. If the Fellow chooses to drive to work, there is ample parking space in the parking lot in front of the building. Mileage is reimbursed for work related travel outside of the Fellow's daily commute.

- Briefly describe the work that Yale PPSF Fellows have done with your agency in the past and present. If you have not worked with Yale Fellows, please describe any work that Yale students have done with your agency.

Since our founding in 1999, Yale students have been working side-by-side with our staff to create the program that is now a model for best practices in family child care, early childhood professional development, and workforce development. All Our Kin has an ongoing partnership with the Yale Law School Clinic, and currently works with four students from the Clinic who provide research and guidance on topics related to our upcoming regional expansion such as intellectual property law, charitable registration, and the creation of a national Board of Directors. Last summer, All Our Kin hosted a Yale Liman Fellow, whose work with children and families in the Early Head Start program transformed her professional goals.

In the past, All Our Kin has worked with President's Public Service Fellows and other Yale students who engaged in a variety of projects, including: designing and co-teaching adult training modules; designing evaluations and assessments to measure program outcomes; developing and managing an afterschool program for school-aged children; assisting with grant writing and fund development; developing and leading educational workshops for community members and potential applicants; researching and writing a manual on the rights and responsibilities of family child care providers; assisting in a city-wide campaign to preserve eligibility for child care subsidies; leading a campaign to provide affordable health insurance coverage to family child care providers and their families; writing and presenting a case study on a child development manual for family child care providers; assisting in the development of a health component for our Early Head Start initiative; and helping us strategize expansion into Fairfield County.