

Yale University President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2017

- Organization: Believe In Me Empowerment Corporation
- Full street address of organization: 423-427 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven CT 06511
- Website: bimecnewhaven.com
- Name and title of the Direct Supervisor (*please note: the Direct Supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis*): Ebony Walker
- Phone number and e-mail address of Direct Supervisor: 203-772-2771 Ext. 16
ebony.walker.bimec@gmail.com
- Placement dates (*8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 30 and Friday, August 11, 2017*):
- Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe: We are willing to work with the Fellow. All applicants are encouraged to apply.
- Hours of the program (*placements should be equivalent to full-time*): 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Placement Description

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

The mission of Believe In Me Empowerment Corporation (BIMEC) is to improve the lives of children, young adults and their families impacted by and or affected by incarceration. The agency provides hope, opportunities and supportive services for families in New Haven in order that they may overcome challenges, reach their full potential and become productive citizens. BIMEC's goals include delivering excellent services that empower youth and adults, to instill life-long commitment to community, through academic achievement, critical thinking, self-assurance and community enrichment.

- **Please write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting**

The Fellow will be providing case management services to youth ages 10-15 and adults ages 18 and up.

- **Please write a complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow.**

The Fellow will participate in two main programs within BIMEC: The BIMEC SHINE! Program for Children of Incarcerated Parents and the Transitional Housing Program.

SHINE! (formerly Reading for Reasoning)-this flagship program assists elementary and middle school aged youth to identify with characters in carefully selected books that are shared book club style. Skilled facilitators then engage the children in discussion around their own feelings to address the impact of trauma, build productive relationships, improve communication skills and build a supportive and safe environment for them to express themselves. This program is delivered in two formats: after-school and as a summer camp program. The program has built in field trips that cement the learning and expose program youth to life-changing experiences in and outside of their community (e.g. community projects like planting trees, visiting art museums and the theatre). The program relieves the stress, stigma and isolation that children whose parents are incarcerated may experience by providing an avenue for youth dealing with a common stressor, familial incarceration, to share in enriching activities not directly confronting their relative's incarceration.

BIMEC has the capacity to house 32 men and 8 women for 60 days in two separate facilities. This program is available for men and women recently released from prison who are reintegrating back into the community and rebuilding relationships with their families. Support services include case management, counseling, self-help groups, housing and employment education and referrals. The Supported Recovery Housing Program offers self-directed treatment options, both traditional and non-traditional, for eligible adults with a substance use disorder and/or mental health disorders. The program provides a sober housing environment, case management services, group supported recovery programming, and referrals to resources to assist with basic needs.

The Fellow will perform duties similar to that of a case manager. The case manager is the backbone of his/her clients. The position requires him/her to extract the history of the client, analyze the psychology, determine the needs, and coordinate with relevant departments or individuals to make sure that the client's needs are fulfilled. Within

groups, the Fellow will participate in the co-facilitation of cohort groups, maintain case files (Intake, Release of Information (ROI), notes and follow up assessments), provide intervention techniques for youth, ensure relevant discussion, assist youth with rational reasoning and thought, and provide productive conclusion at sessions end. The Fellow will also ensure that each student completes an intake and has follow up assessments to determine progress or supportive needs, and assist with recruitment efforts. The Fellow will assist in follow up on recommended referrals; communicate with student support network, family, school, DCF, juvenile authorities, and community stakeholders, as well as assist with recruitment efforts. The Fellow will keep detailed records of every case, every home visit, every referral and every contact with resources on client's behalf, input accurate and complete data for all contacts with clients into agency database, ensure that all documents submitted on behalf of a client are valid, serve as a patient advocate, and enhance a collaborative relationship to maximize the patients' and families' ability to make informed decisions.

One expected outcome for the Fellow is for them to become proficient in all job tasks through structured support and trainings by the direct supervisor and staff. Another expected outcome is to train fellows who will become licensed psychologists/social workers prepared to assume entry-level positions in a variety of healthcare settings, such as the public sector, nonprofit social services, academic settings, or medical centers. By the end of the training program, the fellows should develop a full range of clinical psychology skills required for independent practice with demonstrated competence in a variety of clinical areas.

• **Specific skills/experience required for the project (*Please list*):**

- Proficient communication skills
 - Professional commitment
 - Knowledge base of social work practice
 - Self awareness
 - Empathy
 - Objectivity
 - Computer literacy and proficiency in basic computer programs (word, excel, power point, internet, etc.)
 - Ability to adhere to the Code of Ethics
 - Respectful and professional etiquette
 - Being punctual and dependable
 - Prioritizing responsibilities
 - Completing assignments on time
 - Good documentation skills
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- Ability to thoroughly document conversations and actions regarding case management
 - Possess good interpersonal skills
 - Experience working with persons in crisis
 - Experience with at risk youth
 - Hands on experience with community service projects
- **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 will not be a work requirement. The Fellow must be able to provide own transportation. BIMEC is a short distance from the main Yale University Campus and resides on a direct bus route. For those using personal transportation there is ample on street parking.

- **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.**

Previously we had the opportunity to work with a Yale Fellow through two of our major programs, The Reading for Reasoning Program Summer Camp for Children of Incarcerated Parents and our Supportive Recovery Housing Program for individuals with mental illness, persons in recovery and the re-entry population. Our Fellow worked with the adults and youth ages 10 and up provided case management services, youth development and mentoring services. During this time our Fellow facilitated reading groups and literature circles, assisted in group activities and even created group discussion lesson plans. He also participated recreational activities and attended field trips.

Our Fellow also worked with the men in our Supportive Recovery Housing Program by providing intake assessments, case management and recovery oriented groups. In addition to participating in direct programming, he also provided outreach through his participation in community meeting and events.

