Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2018

- Organization: Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven, Inc.
- Full street address of organization: 333 Sherman Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511
- Website: www.nhsofnewhaven.org
- Name and title of person who will be the Fellow’s direct supervisor:
  Stephen Cremin-Endes, Director of Community Building and Organizing
- Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor:
  (203) 562-0598 x222 (office), (203) 444-2303 (cell),
  scremin-endes@nhsofnewhaven.org
- Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 29 and Friday, August 10, 2018):
  Tuesday, May 29 – Friday, August 10, 2018
- Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe:
  Yes—we are able to end the placement a week earlier, if requested.
Proposed work schedule:

Mon/Tues/Wed/Friday, 9 am – 5 pm
Thurs, 11 am – 7 pm
(one-hour lunch break daily; occasional assignments on weekends)

Placement Description

Organization description:

Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven's model for neighborhood revitalization is both holistic and unique. Our comprehensive approach of clustered affordable housing, homeownership education, community organizing, and commitment to green building and social justice empowers low- and moderate-income people to become not only homeowners but vested stakeholders in their community. We have been serving the New Haven’s neighborhoods for the past 38 years.

NHS’ mission is to position neighborhoods to succeed by increasing and preserving homeownership; making homes beautiful, energy-efficient, and affordable; and helping residents take charge of their neighborhoods. Our affordable housing development is focused in Newhallville, the Hill, and Dwight/Edgewood neighborhoods of New Haven. Each year we rehabilitate up to 12 properties per year in our targeted neighborhoods, devote substantial community organizing efforts in these locations, and serve as many as 1700 clients looking to purchase a home or prevent a pending foreclosure.

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

The Fellow will work closely with residents and the Community Building and Organizing staff, to facilitate health and exercise programs along the Farmington Canal Greenway for the Newhallville community. In addition, this position will include research and writing to support the agency’s 2018 strategic planning efforts.
• Please write a complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow.

*Community Building and Organizing (3 days/week)*

The Fellow will work three days each week to help facilitate health and exercise programs along the Farmington Canal Greenway for the Newhallville community. The Fellow would lend his or her capacity to supporting these resident-driven programs, which are primarily based in the Shelton Avenue Learning Corridor, one block south of Lincoln-Bassett School in the central part of Newhallville. There are regular Thursday evening (4:30pm to 7:00pm) community events including clean-up and park-landscaping activities. Work may include assistance on physical park improvements and on sustaining Community Building & Organizing projects that have been started over the past several years.

Working closely with resident leader and community activist Doreen Abubakar, the Fellow will host and promote walking club activities with local partners (churches, Yale New Haven Hospital, Lincoln-Bassett Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), etc.). The student may assist with facilitating a pedometer challenge, which Doreen piloted in 2017.

Additionally, the Fellow will provide assistance to the volunteer staff from Devil’s Gear Bike Shop and Elm City Cycling (partners of the Learning Corridor Council) who will support youth - and adult - education around bicycling and bike safety as well as facilitate free rentals and guided tours along the Farmington Canal Greenway (starting at the Shelton Ave Learning Corridor). These activities will likely take place on Thursday afternoons/evenings and/or Saturday mornings.

*Strategic Planning Support (2 days/week)*

This summer, Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven’s staff and Board of Directors will embark on a strategic planning initiative to create a five-year roadmap for our work from 2019–2024. Among other things, strategic planning involves a comprehensive look at internal strengths and weaknesses, and an analysis of forces in the external environment that will impact our work, securing critical input from stakeholders. Reporting to the Executive Director on this work,
the Fellow will support these efforts through research, writing, and related projects.

- Specific skills/experience required for the project:

Required:
- Passion for social justice, community development, and environmental stewardship
- Sincere desire to engage and work with low-income individuals and communities
- Flexibility, initiative, and creativity
- Excellent interpersonal, verbal and writing skills

Preferred:
- Experience with or willingness to work on neighborhood beautification projects
- Experience with or willingness to engage in grassroots organizing and door-knocking
- Experience with creating promotional materials for community events and workshops
- Experience with or interest in program evaluation

***Fellows with personal experience as a member of a low-income household are strongly encouraged to select Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven as their preferred placement***

- Additional requirements:

A car is not required. NHS is located on a bus line and our staff has a culture of carpooling and biking. The Fellow will never be asked to canvass or visit a neighborhood on her or his own. If the Fellow chooses to drive, s/he will have access to free parking and work-related travel will be reimbursed at the NHS staff rate.

- 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.
In addition to hosting dozens of volunteer events with Yale students each year, NHS has been fortunate enough to host Yale President’s Public Service Fellows for more than a decade. A few of the projects with which Fellows have assisted us are as follows:

- **2003**: Developed a Business Plan for our organization (and presented it to NHS staff and Board of Directors); helped create an expanded website for our organization
- **2008**: Coordinated our strategic planning process; created the written Strategic Plan that would guide our activities from 2008-2013; researched housing economic trends to update our Business Plan
- **2010**: Worked alongside our Community Organizing team to coordinate neighborhood events and lay the groundwork for future community initiatives
- **2012**: Compiled the organization’s Annual Report; surveyed targeted neighborhoods using the Success Measures Survey created by NeighborWorks® America; created a final analysis of survey data
- **2013**: Worked to strengthen NHS’ relations with faith-based communities in and around our targeted neighborhoods
- **2015**: Developed a sustainability report, which identified NHS’ “green” accomplishments of the last year and target outcomes for NHS in 2015-16
- **2016**: Conducted the 2016 Community Impact Measurement Survey, our three-year follow-up to the Success Measures Survey undertaken in 2012; provided social media marketing support for HOC Realty, one of NHS’ subsidiary organizations.
- **2017**: Supported the West River Water Festival and the Newhallville Promise Land Festival, and assisted resident leaders in a clean street/reduced trash initiative of painting four plastic garbage barrels with young residents and teenagers.

NHS has a long history of partnering with young adults, particularly university students, in our community development projects. All 13 President’s Public Service Fellows have served our organization extremely well, assisting us in many different domains including community organizing, written correspondence, and research. Based on the evaluations and comments we have received, each of the students has found the experience of working with NHS to be very worthwhile.
We aim to accommodate the interests of the Yale President’s Public Service Fellow by adapting and tailoring work assignments to maximize their value to the student while helping us accomplish our mission of revitalizing New Haven’s neighborhoods. In this way, we are able to create a summer program that will not only meet the needs and aspirations of the student, but will also provide a substantive benefit to our organization.