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 person who will be the Fellow’s direct supervisor (the supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis): Kara Wevers, Early Head Start Director

Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor: 203-772-2294; kara@allourkin.org

Placement dates: 10 weeks any time between June 3 and August 16

Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe: Yes; Fellow may complete the 10 weeks any time between June 3 and August 16, with additional dates available if needed

Proposed work schedule: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (flexible; schedule will be equivalent to 37.5 hours/week)
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 professionals who ensure that more than 2,400 young children are safe, loved, and learning. We have offices in New Haven, Bridgeport, and Stamford, and are expanding to New York City.

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

In partnership with United Way of Greater New Haven, All Our Kin partners with family child care providers to deliver Early Head Start services to eligible infants and toddlers. These services include free or low-cost, quality child care and comprehensive wraparound supports for both the children and their families, such as health services and job preparation. The PPSF will work to strengthen and support our program’s family engagement initiatives - a critical element of the Early Head Start model.
Please write a complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow:

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 residing in New Haven, West Haven, and Hamden. We connect families to licensed family child care programs that are culturally diverse and offer flexible, full-day, full-year programming. In addition, our staff connects enrolled children, families, and child care providers to a plethora of comprehensive supports and services, which result in critical benefits to each group. These include:

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 learning opportunities
- Program visits, mentoring, and ongoing support from nurse consultants, educational coaches, and other Early Head Start team members

Family engagement is a critical component of Early Head Start, as outlined in the Head Start Program Performance Standards. Many of the families in our program come to us...
with few material resources or emotional supports available to them. In addition to offering the benefits of stable, affordable child care, we also aim to provide families with opportunities to learn and connect as a community. 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 and opportunities. We welcome a Fellow who is a problem solver and willing to take initiative. The goal of improving 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 strengthened processes 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; build strong relationships with Early Head Start staff as well as the children, families, and child care providers served; 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:
  - Self-motivated
  - Strong written and verbal communication skills
  - Strong organizational skills
  - Cultural competence
- Respect for Early Head Start children, families, and family child care providers
- Commitment to social justice and early childhood education
- Bilingual English/Spanish preferred but not required

- Additional requirement:
  A car may be helpful, but is 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; in the past few years, students from the Clinic have provided research and guidance on topics related to our regional expansion such as intellectual property law, charitable registration, and the creation of a national Board of Directors. In addition, All Our Kin hosted a Yale PPSF, who, in addition to her daily responsibilities with our Early Head Start program, utilized her talents as a yoga instructor to bring yoga to children in family child care. Through Dwight Hall at Yale, she continued her work with us during the fall 2017 semester.

  In the past, All Our Kin has worked with President’s Public Service Fellows, Yale Liman Fellows, and other Yale students who engaged in a variety of projects. These included 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 program; creating an explanatory recruitment video for our Early Head Start program; and helping All Our Kin strategize expansion into Fairfield County and beyond.