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 (*the supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis*):

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 28 and Friday, August 9, 2019*):

Tuesday, May 28 – Friday, August 9, 2019

Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe:

Yes—we are able to end the placement a week earlier, if requested.

Proposed work schedule (*placements should be equivalent to full-time and not more than 37.5 hours/week*):

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

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Questions? Call the Yale Office of New Haven and State Affairs: (203) 432-8412
Placement Description

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

  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 practices 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 39 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 the Newhallville, Hill, and Dwight neighborhoods of New Haven. Each year we strive to rehabilitate up to 12 properties 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 (50 words or less. *This will be used as your agency’s project description summary on the PPSF website, so please be succinct)*:

  The Fellow will work with residents and the Community Building and Organizing staff to facilitate healthy food and exercise programs along the Farmington Canal Greenway for the Newhallville community. The position will also include office projects, including developing a residential lending library and preparing for next year’s Resident Leadership Program.

- 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.*)
Community-Based Work (3 days/week)

The Fellow will work three days each week to help facilitate healthy food 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 cleanups 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 work to improve access to healthy food by participating in one or more of the following activities: assisting with the launch of the Newhallville Farmers Market, facilitating educational programming around gardening for youth, and/or supporting the neighborhood’s many active resident gardeners.

Office-Based Work (2 days/week)

Working with NHS Staff, the Fellow may help with writing grants or creating marketing and communications materials, such as flyers or blog posts. The Fellow also has the opportunity to choose a project to work on for the duration of his or her placement. This project may be the implementation of a residential lending library for common maintenance and landscaping tools; creating a web-based version of our Resident Leadership Program curriculum; or training office staff in the use of a new digital tool that improves our business processes. Other ideas for a project would depend on the skills and interests of the Fellow, but include data analysis, GIS mapping, etc.
• Specific skills/experience required for the project (please list):

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 gardening, nutrition, and/or food security

***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 (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 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. Community-based work frequently occurs in the evening or on Saturday.

• 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.

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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.
- 2018: Worked with Elm City Cycling to teach bike safety to youth in Newhallville, helped paint the Women’s Empowerment Mural, researched and wrote for our five-year Strategic Planning Document, published a weekly newsletter that summarized recent CB&O activities

NHS has a long history of partnering with young adults, particularly university students, in our community development projects. All Yale 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 the New Haven community.

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Doreen Abubakar working with residents to beautify the Learning Corridor along the Farmington Canal Greenway Trail
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Tammy Chapman showing off local produce at a mobile farmstand in Newhallville.
Mr. Alonzo swelling with pride as he poses with his garden at the Learning Corridor.
Food education with Doreen Abubakar in the Learning Corridor.

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Young gardeners planting pumpkins in Mr. Alonzo’s garden.