

Yale University

President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2024

Organization information

<i>Name of organization</i>	'r kids Family Center
<i>Full street address</i>	45 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven, CT 06510
<i>Website or link to social media page</i>	www.rkidsct.org

PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

<i>Name</i>	Enna Garcia
<i>Title</i>	Director of Programs
<i>Cell phone number</i>	203-865-5437
<i>E-mail address</i>	enna@rkidsct.org

What is the best way for prospective student applicants to contact you with questions about your proposal?

- Send an e-mail with questions

Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 28, 2024 through Friday, August 9, 2024)

8-11 weeks anytime between May 28th and August 9th.

Are placement dates flexible? Are there any dates on which your Fellow must work?

Yes, placement dates are flexible and the 8-11 weeks can be completed any time between May 28th and August 9th.

Proposed work schedule (*work week should equal (and not exceed) 37.5 hours per week*)

Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm, and Fridays 9am-3pm. Schedules are flexible and will equal 37.5 hours per week.

If a hybrid schedule is offered at your site, please describe:

If the assigned projects allow for one work from home day per week, we are open to that option for The Fellow. Most work will take place on site.

Organization description (*mission statement, population served. 1,000 characters or less*)

'r kids Family Center promotes permanency, safety and stability for children by providing specialized, quality services to children residing in foster care and their families. Our innovative services are centered on the best needs of the child and holistic approaches include the child's biological, foster and/or adoptive families. 'r kids has served over 7,500 children, birth, foster and adoptive families, and community members.

Our services include: Reunification and Therapeutic Family Time Services, wrap around services to promote successful reunification; Tracey's Place, a trauma-informed psychoeducational youth program for 10-18 year olds residing in out of home care; Advanced Behavioral Health Credentialed Services; child placing services including, Permanency Placement Service Planning for children transitioning to adoptive family; domestic and international adoption services, food and basic needs pantry; and The Resiliency Center, an Infant and Toddler Family Trauma Center.

Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting.

The Fellow will support the development of young adults in our community by joining the Tracey's Place summer team, and will mentor young adults, provide tutoring, and will create lesson plans for the summer session of Tracey's Place. They will also assist 'r kids in refining and developing impact surveys for our programs, after working with staff to learn the details of each of our programs and the expected outcomes of these programs.

Write a more complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow.

Tracey's Place is a psychosocial-educational trauma-informed program for youth ages 10-18 who are at risk of removal or who are currently in out of home care. In addition to services for youth, we provide wrap-around support services for caretakers (foster parents, kin, or biological and adoptive families). Tracey's Place utilizes evidence-based models, the One Circle Foundation's Girls Circle and Council for Boys and Young Men curricula, to help students develop resilience, self-esteem and healthy learning behaviors. We also use the Center for Adoption Support and Education's W.I.S.E. Up! Curriculum, which aims to provide students with the social and emotional skills they need to address questions about adoption from their peers. Youth go on field trips, create art taught by professional artists, and are exposed to culinary arts and music.

The Fellow will work with Tracey's Place staff to plan the activities and curriculum supplements for the summer session of Tracey's Place. The Fellow will also serve as a mentor and tutor, and will create Tracey's Place recruitment and educational curriculum materials for us to use during the school year.

A critical role for the Fellow will also be the assisting 'r kids in refining and developing pre- and post-surveys for our suite of programs. These satisfaction surveys will help us ensure we are meeting the needs of families. Through the survey development, we hope the Fellow will help us develop a measurement for a families' harder to qualify outcomes, like hope. The Fellow will also help 'r kids develop a mechanism to record and report on these survey results, meeting a need that we have not been able to accomplish with a small infrastructure.

Additional administrative duties may also be assigned.

List any specific skills/experience required for the project

- An interest in child welfare, youth services, and program development
- Experience working with youth ages 10-18
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Strong organizational skills
- Survey development and research skills
- Knowledge of Excel

Additional requirements

Fellows are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and successfully complete State Police and Child Welfare Background Checks.

Briefly describe any work that Yale PPSF Fellows and/or Yale students have done with your organization.

In the past, 'r kids has worked with Yale President's Public Service Fellows to advance our work to provide a continuum of permanency services, providing stability to area families. Previous Fellows have:

- Developed a library for 'r kids children and families
- Created marketing for and implemented a community "sneak peek" of our expansion
- Developed and oversaw art projects for families and youth to create permanent, youth, family, and community promotional materials
- Conducted analysis of client data
- Drafted organizational policies and procedures
- Assisted our Development Consultant and created social media campaigns

Members of Yale School of Management's Social Impact Club provided us with a financial analysis for The Resiliency Center that is useful for our planning and operations. This analysis details cost per infant/toddler, Care4Kids reimbursement rates, and potential future funding sources.

A Student Consulting Group from Yale School of Public Health conducted extensive research and produced a white paper on Evidence-based Early Interventions for Infants and Toddlers. This research will further inform our programmatic and therapeutic approaches and will be useful for outreach and grant applications.