

Yale University

President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2023

Organization information

<i>Name of organization</i>	Child Care for Connecticut's Future (CCfCT), with hosting at Friends Center for Children
<i>Full street address</i>	227 East Grand Avenue, New Haven, CT 06513
<i>Website or link to social media page</i>	https://www.childcareforct.org

Q16. PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

The supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis.

<i>Name</i>	Allyx Schiavone
<i>Title</i>	Co-Chair, Childcare for Connecticut's Future and Executive Director, Friends Center for Children
<i>Cell phone number</i>	203-468-1966
<i>E-mail address</i>	aschiavone@friendscenterforchildren.org

Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 30, 2023 through Friday, August 11, 2023)

11 week Fellowship period of Tuesday, May 30 - Friday August 11th, 2023.

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

CCfCT would like to take advantage of a full eleven week placement and would be flexible in ensuring to support the specific needs of the Fellow when identifying and confirming the final dates.

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

CCfCT would like to propose a suggested working schedule of Monday – Friday from 8.30am -5.00pm. There may be a need for the Fellow to attend occasional evening meetings, in which case Friends Center will work with the Fellow to adjust the working hours for the week in order not to exceed 37.5 hours/week.

Q18.Organization description (*mission statement, population served. 1,000 characters or less*)

Child Care for Connecticut's Future (CCfCT) is a powerful movement of parents, providers, advocates, and others building sustained public support for high-quality, affordable child care available to every family that needs it. High-quality child care is critical to ensure children and families thrive, for a healthy economy, and for the promotion of gender and racial equity.

Launched in November 2021, CCfCT parent and provider advocacy resulted in the Connecticut state legislature and Governor Lamont allocating \$183 million toward early care and education.

Friends Center for Children is an early childhood education center providing year-round, child care in New Haven. Friends Center advances racial equity in New Haven by offering high-quality care to families that would not otherwise have access. Our mission is: educate children, empower families, inspire teachers, engage community, embrace diversity, embody equity. Friends Center serves 122 children and their 350+ parents/caregivers.

Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting (500 characters or less).

CCfCT plans for the Fellow to focus on the following coalition building work:

- Create a landscape analysis of parent groups and businesses in the New Haven area.
- Conduct best practice research on parent and business involvement nationally in ECE advocacy. Understand capacity needed (people and cost) to implement best practices.
- Develop an outreach strategy for parents and businesses with communications materials.
- With CCfCT and Friends Center leaders, test and refine strategy.

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

Launched in November 2021, CCfCT was built initially through networks of childcare providers (state-funded programs, child-care centers, family child care), advocates, and funders. By summer 2022, CCfCT had nearly 90 member organizations and 4,300 individuals on its mailing list. During this time, parents and businesses became engaged through word-of-mouth and through providers.

To accomplish our vision of high-quality, affordable child care and family support to every Connecticut family in the setting of their choice, CCfCT must undertake more focused outreach to and engagement with parents, parent organizing groups, and business groups. CCfCT would like to develop and implement strategies for each on a regional level, with an initial focus in New Haven.

We are starting with a strong foundation in New Haven. The Friends Center is deeply embedded with families, and hosts annual events that engage 100+ families on early childhood issues. In March 2022, several New Haven organizations led a rally with 350+ local attendees to bring attention to the issues

(read more from the [New Haven Independent, “Morning Without Childcare” Rally Draws 350](#)
by [LAURA GLESBY | Mar 15, 2022](#))

The Yale 2023 Public Service Fellow will work closely with the Executive Director of the Friends Center who is also the co-Chair of CCfCT in researching organizations and best practices for outreach and engagement and in developing implementation strategies.

High-quality early childhood education is so important to our children, the economy, and the promotion of racial and gender equity.

Our Children: The first years of a child’s life have long-lasting impacts.

- 90% of a child’s brain development happens by age 5.

- There is a 13% return on investment in high quality birth-to-five childcare through savings on education, health, employment, and social behavior outcomes.

- Recent research continues to show long-term effects (ages 35 – 37) of high-quality ECE on health and economic benefits.

Racial & Gender Equity: Child care-related challenges fall disproportionately on women, and particularly women of color.

- 94% of families of color cannot afford high quality infant and toddler care.
- 76% of CT parents who reported having to stay home due to childcare in fall 2020 were female.
- 92% of private child care providers in CT are women-owned businesses.
- The Economy: Child care is critical to the health of the economy. Inadequate child care creates economic inefficiencies and burden.
- Pre-COVID, 9.5% of Connecticut parents quit a job, declined a job, or changed jobs due to child care (annual percentage for 2016-2018).
- Annual costs incurred by Connecticut parents, taxpayers, and businesses due to inadequate child care total \$57B, \$13B of this is incurred by businesses.
- The size of the ECE workforce in Connecticut alone totals 19,000 people.
- Businesses appreciate that child care is a critical issue and they want options to address the challenges, according to a recent report by the Bipartisan Policy Center.

Outcomes and duties:

CCFCT's Yale 2023 Public Service Fellow project is research and planning for greater coalition building for the New Haven chapter of CCfCT. The deliverables/outcomes/duties for the Project outlined for the Yale 2023 Fellow would include preparing the following for internal consideration:

- A landscape analysis of both parent organizations (their reach, focus, and goals) and businesses in the New Haven area.
- Best practice research on both parent engagement and business outreach/involvement nationally in early childhood education advocacy.
- Analysis and documentation of the roles and cost for CCfCT to implement recommended best practices.
- An outreach strategy for identified parent groups and businesses
- Communications materials (letters, documents and PowerPoint presentations)

List specific skills/experience required for the project

- Strategic thinking & implementation skills
- Self-motivated
- Qualitative research and analysis
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Awareness of socio-economic landscapes and issues of access and equity
- Appreciation for dynamic setting of a non-profit

Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours). If a car is required, include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement.

There are no other additional requirements, and if the Fellow does have a car there is parking available at both of Friends Center's New Haven sites.

Briefly describe any work that Yale PPSF Fellows have done with your organization in the past and present. If you have not worked with Yale Fellows, describe any work that Yale students have done with your organization.

A Yale Fellow worked with Friends Center in Summer 2022, to consider the economic sustainability of the early childhood education (ECE) industry with specific attention to the cost of care vs market rate analysis and to create a shared service model for supporting the “back of house costs” of New Haven’s early care and education programs. Additionally, Friends Center collaborated with an SOM Social Impact Club in 2021-2022 which resulted in a Free Teacher Housing Proforma and also in 2020-2021 on a deep dive into our HR needs, which resulted in our Board of Directors approving the hire of Friends Center’s first Talent Associate, who joined our team in July 2021. We have also welcomed volunteers from SOM who most recently supported the work leading up to the launch of our Teacher Housing Program.