

Yale University

President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2023

Organization information

<i>Name of organization</i>	City of New Haven Fair Rent Commission
<i>Full street address</i>	165 Church Street, 1st Floor, New Haven CT, 06510
<i>Website or link to social media page</i>	https://www.newhavenct.gov/government/departments-divisions/fair-rent-commission

PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

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

<i>Name</i>	Wildaliz Bermudez
<i>Title</i>	Executive Director of Fair Rent Commission
<i>Cell phone number</i>	(475) 238-1011
<i>E-mail address</i>	wibermudez@newhavenct.gov

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

Placement dates May 30, 2023-August 11, 2023

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

Yes. We can work with a different time frame if it is needed.

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

9:00AM-5:00Pm (Mon.-Fri) although evening meetings do occasionally occur.

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

The Fair Rent Commission (FRC) controls and eliminates excessive rental charges on residential property within the City of New Haven. FRC's role is to enact due process for both tenants and landlords who wish to come before the commission in cases where there are: 1)excessive proposed rental charges; 2)unsafe and unhealthy housing conditions and/or 3) the terms on of a rental lease is changed during the agreed upon contract. FRC can investigate cases (including of tenants' unions), inspect units, bring parties together to negotiate an outcome, and quantify information on rental housing trends in New Haven. Ultimately, after an investigation is completed, the Board of Fair Rent Commissioners has the power to rule on cases. Overall, the Fair Rent Commission provides an opportunity for New Haven tenants and landlords to go before the Commission to receive assistance related to resolving rental housing issues. New Haven's FRC is the only department of its' kind in Connecticut!

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

The Fair Rent Commission (FRC) is looking for an energetic Public Service Fellow interested in learning more about how the Commission controls/eliminates excessive rental charges in New Haven. The fellow would help FRC engage with New Haven landlords to respond to unsafe and unhealthy conditions while learning about how to create a well-maintained housing stock. The ideal Fellow would assist in negotiations, draft reports and introduce municipal housing policy to the Board of Alders.

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

Summer projects may expose students to the following: developing and introducing housing policy at the municipal level on fair rent issues; organizing and public speaking at FRC Community Workshops; develop fair rent housing analysis and projected trends; convening meetings with municipal and state elected officials; and collaborating with local non-profit groups. Students will gain skills in drafting reports, negotiation, public speaking, community outreach, and creating a municipal housing law.

List specific skills/experience required for the project

Students will become involved in a range of activities based on the variety of cases received which could include the following:

1. Assisting with data analysis;

2. Developing a more user-friendly website content;
3. Receiving walk-in cases and phone call inquiries of tenants and landlords (meeting with them);
4. Attending the Fair Rent Commission's monthly Public Hearings held once a month via- zoom;
5. Participating in virtual and in-person training conferences on housing;
6. Shadowing the Commission during Field Inspections of rental units;
7. Participating in the Commission's Public Outreach Workshops- at local libraries, schools, churches, and/or other community gathering spaces etc.
8. Design and submit to the New Haven Board of Alders- new fair rent commission housing policies to become municipal ordinances
9. Assisting with the potential negotiations of cases during preliminary hearings.
10. Providing counseling to tenants and landlords regarding alternative resources available.

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

No car is required, although weekend working hours are not anticipated, but may be required occasionally.

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.

There have been no PPSF Fellows in the City of New Haven's Fair Rent Commission in the past.