

# Yale University

## President's Public Service Fellowship

### Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2023

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#### Organization information

<i>Name of organization</i>	Columbus House
<i>Full street address</i>	586 Ella T Grasso Boulevard, New Haven
<i>Website or link to social media page</i>	<a href="http://www.columbushouse.org">www.columbushouse.org</a>

#### PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

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

<i>Name</i>	Carl Rodenhizer
<i>Title</i>	Chief Real Estate Officer
<i>Cell phone number</i>	203-980-2139
<i>E-mail address</i>	<a href="mailto:crodenhizer@columbushouse.org">crodenhizer@columbushouse.org</a>

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

May 30, 2023 through August 11, 2023

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

Yes, dates are flexible.

No required dates.

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

8:30-12:00, 1:00-5 (schedule can be modified)

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

Columbus House, founded in 1982, has a mission to serve people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless by providing shelter and housing and by fostering their personal growth and independence. Today, we operate homeless services in four of the eight counties in the state: New Haven, Middlesex, Hartford, and New London. We have a roster of 170 employees that serve over 2,800 people annually. Its 40 programs fall into the following categories:

Housing initiatives that Columbus House has completed, supports or is under construction, to provide housing options include:

- seventeen-unit supportive housing development on Frank Street in New Haven
- single room housing sites on Howard Avenue and Davenport Avenue in New Haven
- duplex houses in concert with the Yale School of Architecture
- veteran housing on Davenport Avenue in New Haven
- Scattered site apartments throughout New Haven County

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

To support efforts to redesign the structure and format of homeless shelter design, to move from congregate to a non-congregate floor plan. The fellow would be asked to support advocacy efforts for such an effort throughout the neighborhood around Ella Grasso Boulevard and secure regulatory approval for the transition, and help with tasks to prepare for the implementation of the design.

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

Columbus House is initiating plans to add and modify floor space at its Ella Grasso Boulevard to provide for 95 individual sleeping units. Consumers will have individual sleeping and bath units. Dietary services will continue to be offered in a congregate location. This non-congregate format is intended to provide additional privacy for guests at the shelter and provide additional safety for health-related issues.

Depending on the status of the rollout of such an effort over the summer, the fellow will play a role in educating the neighborhood and stakeholders about the plan and seek their support, assist with securing input from the neighborhood

and propose modifications to the plan to address any concerns of the neighborhood, assist with educating our guests of the plan and taking ideas to influence the project design.

The fellow will be called upon to take on tasks that may be required to secure regulatory approval, fulfill funder expectations and communicate the merits of such a design to our audience.

Work in conjunction with architectural and legal counsel and policy committees of the agency to support their work and the communication lines open.

Other tasks may be discussed with the fellow to allow for a responsive communication plan with interested parties and meet the required objectives for this plan to become a reality.

**List specific skills/experience required for the project**

Strong oral and written communication skills  
Organizational skills

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

None

**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.**

In 2019, Yale PPSF Fellow surveyed homeless clients to monitor satisfaction, monitored expenditures related to the Yale Vlock Building Project 2019, and produced a handbook describing each facility Columbus House provides services in through owned and leased facilities.