

Yale University

President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2023

Organization information

<i>Name of organization</i>	Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK)
<i>Full street address</i>	266 State Street, New Haven, CT 06510
<i>Website or link to social media page</i>	www.deskct.org

PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

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

<i>Name</i>	Tina Paolillo
<i>Title</i>	Program Director
<i>Cell phone number</i>	(475) 227-0516
<i>E-mail address</i>	tpaolillo@deskct.org

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

May 30 - August 11

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

Yes, the dates are flexible.

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

Monday, Wednesday-Friday: 11:00 am – 7:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

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

Mission:

To serve people experiencing homelessness or living in poverty by providing food assistance and services that promote health, community, and equity.

Programs:

- (1) Drop-in & Resource Center for Unhoused Individuals
- (2) Food Pantry Program
- (3) Dinner Program

Values:

Respect. The basis of peaceful human interaction.

Dignity. The most basic of human rights.

Community. The resource that matters more than any other.

Empathy. The best tool for the job.

Empowerment. The lever that moves both us and the people we serve.

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

Make an impact on the lives of people who are most in need in your community in New Haven by working with program staff to:

1. Coordinate DESK's weekly food pantry program.
2. Coordinate the distribution of meals as part of our nightly dinner program.
3. Provide onsite services as part of DESK's Drop-in & Resource Center program.
4. Gain an in-depth understanding of how frontline social services for people experiencing homelessness.

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

Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK) offers a service-learning experience in which the Fellow will have the opportunity to work directly with those who are most in need in our community. In addition, as a small, community-based nonprofit, DESK offers to PPSF Fellows a chance to be involved in processes at all levels, so as to gain important insight into how a social nonprofits function. For more than 35 years, DESK has served people experiencing homelessness and living in poverty in New Haven by providing a nightly dinner. The landscape has changed dramatically over the years, and so throughout our history, DESK has developed new programs and services to meet the changing needs of people

experiencing homeless and living in poverty. Today, we take a nuanced and deliberative approach to program development: we identify the need, research best practices, lay out a strategy, recruit partners, assess resources, execute the work, and review results to inform improvement.

In 2021, we took a giant leap forward in DESK's growth. After spending the last three decades housed in basements and dining rooms of local churches, DESK acquired our own building and our space downtown so that we could craft a new program designed with our clients' needs as the foundation. The new program is a downtown drop-in center, and once renovations are complete, the new building will collocate multiple services onsite. This past April, we extended our service operations to provide a community space where our clients can not only access basic needs—like food, clothing, and harm reduction supplies—but also get connected to services that can move them beyond homelessness and poverty.

So where does the President's Public Service Fellow fit in?

We invite you for eleven weeks to be part of an organization engaging in real systemic change. DESK is an organization that is large enough to address broader issues in New Haven with far-reaching implications, but small enough to give every player in the organization a seat at the table.

Specifically: The President's Public Service Fellow will work with DESK's program staff to oversee the weekly Food Pantry, assist in dinner distribution, and work directly with clients in our Drop-in & Resource Center. The most appropriate candidate for this Fellowship will be an individual eager to work at the community-level and directly with our clients. The fellow should be at ease working as part of a team, and should expect to work outside their comfort zone. The position is best-suited for an eager and enthusiastic self-starter looking to uncover the messiness and complexities of service beyond the classroom.

List specific skills/experience required for the project

1. Excellent communication skills: written and oral, especially—with clarity and purpose.
2. High-level of personal organization.
3. Inquisitiveness: asking questions that are appropriate and useful.
4. Independence: having the confidence to work without direct support, but knowing the limits of one's abilities or knowledge.
5. Passion and Sense of Purpose: there is little that is straightforward or easy about serving people experiencing homelessness; it requires enthusiasm and drive.

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

Occasional weekends or evenings may be required (compensating hours-worked). Also, the prospective Fellow should be comfortable working outside during the summer; the strongest candidates are typically those who are eager and ready for anything!

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.

DESK has worked with Yale students directly for many years through the Yale Hunger & Homelessness Action Project (YHHAP, Kitchen-to-Kitchen, and Yale Community Kitchen (the coordinators of whom serve on our Board of Directors and Program Committee). We have hosted a Yale President's Public Service Fellowship for the last four years. Throughout our internship programs and student mentorship work, we have provided an engaging and worthwhile experience for everyone, while also providing students with a foundation for future public service at Yale, in the New Haven community, and across the world.