

Yale University

President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2023

Organization information

<i>Name of organization</i>	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://friendscenterforchildren.org

PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

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

<i>Name</i>	Jessica Legere
<i>Title</i>	Site Director
<i>Cell phone number</i>	203-468-1966
<i>E-mail address</i>	jlegere@friendscenterforchildren.org

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

Tuesday, May 30, 2023-Friday, August 11, 2023

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

Monday through Friday weekly and 8/7-8/11/23

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

8:30-4:00 or 9:00-4:30

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

Friends Center for Children is an early childhood education center providing year-round, full-time care for children in New Haven ages 3 months to 5 years. We are a non-sectarian cooperative located in Fair Haven Heights and Beaver Hill/Westville areas and founded by members of New Haven Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Friends Center advances racial equity in New Haven by offering high-quality care to families that do not and would not otherwise have access through our Sliding Scale Tuition Program. Our program seeks to bridge racial, ethnic, and economic divide, and to create a community of families actively involved in the education of their children.

Our mission is: educate children, empower families, inspire teachers, engage community, embrace diversity, embody equity.

Friends Center currently serves 122 children at two sites, in three Preschool classrooms and seven Infant Toddler Classrooms, and we serve their 350+ parents and caregivers.

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

The Fellow will be supporting our Educator Respite Project. The fellow will be supporting the daily operations of the classroom working with children alongside our educators. They will also support educators in completing necessary tasks to finish projects and providing in classroom support to allow one teacher from the classroom team to have time out of the classroom. The tasks they will complete may include, but are not limited to working with children, laminating, and organizing materials.

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

The Educator Respite Project will allow educators time out of the classroom and direct support with end of program year tasks/projects. Early Childhood Educators have been enduring a workforce crisis for the past two years which has exacerbated their reality of already being overworked, undervalued, and underpaid by a broken system. At Friends Center for Children, we strive to create unique opportunities to offset the systemic failures which impact the burden early childhood educators face daily. This Educator Respite Project will allow us to create relief in real time for our educators while sustaining the operation of our program and providing consistent care for children and families.

List specific skills/experience required for the project

The Fellow would be supporting the Head Teacher and Assistant Teachers with the general supervision and management of the children and all curricula as related to the center. The Fellow will support the implementation of the mission of FCfC by providing best practices childcare while using a cooperative model and the Quaker principles of simplicity, peaceful resolutions of conflicts, integrity, community, equality and stewardship.

QUALIFICATIONS:

To perform this role successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily and must possess the following minimum qualifications:

- High school diploma
- Adequate oral and written skills
- Bilingual in Spanish or other languages is a plus
- Physical Requirements:
 - Vision and hearing within normal range so as to be able to provide sight and sound supervision
 - Ability to lift and carry 40 lbs.
 - Ability to bend, sit on the floor for prolonged periods, and get up and down with ease
- Essential Duties and Responsibilities:
 - Modeling:
 - Maintains a positive emotional attitude with staff, families and other teachers
 - Physical Space:
 - Maintains center facilities with appropriate care
 - With direction from the Head Teacher prepares materials and activities for children, snacks and lunch, and tidies and cleans the classroom as needed
 - Communication:
 - Communicates with , Site Director, Head Teacher and other teachers daily
 - Seeks guidance and refers families to the Head Teacher as appropriate
 - Professional Development:
 - Completes New Hire Orientation and Classroom Orientation
 - Makes an effort to know current theory and best practices.

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

Reliable transportation to the work site is required. A car is not required throughout the course of the day.

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.

Friends Center for Children's recent work with the Yale Fellow program in 2022 was two-fold:

- 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.