

Yale University

President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2023

Organization information

<i>Name of organization</i>	Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven
<i>Full street address</i>	333 Sherman Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511
<i>Website or link to social media page</i>	www.nhsofnewhaven.org

PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

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

<i>Name</i>	Stephen Cremin-Endes
<i>Title</i>	Director, Community Building and Organizing
<i>Cell phone number</i>	203.444.2303
<i>E-mail address</i>	screminendes@nhsofnewhaven.org

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

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

Yes, placement dates are flexible. There are no mandatory dates.

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

Our official schedule is Monday to Friday 9 to 5 pm. We however do find that due to the nature of our community building and organizing work that there are opportunities to work in the late afternoon and early evening as well as on the

weekends. When this occurs we make adjustments to ensure that we adhere to the 37.5 hour weekly schedule.

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

NHS' mission is to strengthen neighborhoods by developing affordable housing and increasing homeownership opportunities; providing homebuyer education and financial coaching; making homes safe, beautiful, and energy-efficient; and working to improve perceptions of the neighborhoods in which we are working by helping residents take charge of their communities. Our affordable housing development is focused in the Newhallville, Hill, and Dwight neighborhoods of New Haven. Each year we strive to rehabilitate up to 8 properties in our targeted neighborhoods, devote substantial community organizing efforts in these locations, and serve as many as 1000 clients looking to purchase a home or prevent a pending foreclosure.

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

The Fellow will work to improve the relationship between residents (and resident-driven groups) and volunteers in a number of placemaking and programmatic areas in the two neighborhoods abutting the Yale campus to the west; namely, Newhallville and the Hill. The Fellow will meet with residents and identify specific ways to improve how they can work with volunteers in areas of greatest need as identified by them.

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

This year we wish to work closely with the Fellow to introduce them to a number of resident leaders that we have developed deep and lasting relationships over the past 14 years. In these conversations we expect some of the questions to be: how can you utilize volunteers more often? What is needed for you to engage and sustain volunteer relationships better? How can volunteers help with issues and concerns, desires and hopes that you have for your immediate 'block' and 'neighborhood'? We anticipate the Fellow to speak to four leaders and then follow up with them to design and implement their wishes. We will be working closely together in authentic and mutually respectful ways. Examples may include : (1) Working with a community garden coordinator to improve the use of a community greenhouse that is underperforming; (2) Working with the Carriage Hill Condo Association serving a low-moderate income development to improve their meeting and committee structure as well as assisting them in

beautification projects and community gatherings on their grounds; (3) Working with members of the Newhallville Community Management Team (<https://newhallvillecmt.org/>) to identify elderly homeowners who would benefit from maintenance and minor repairs to their home resulting in seniors to be able to remain in their homes longer with dignity, safety, and joy; (4) Working with community members to enhance the budding NHS Tool Lending Library (Think library but where one can come and borrow tools) for individual and community projects including building rain gardens at homes and performing invasive removal and trash removal in greenspaces and watersheds.

There may be other projects types of projects. Stephen Cremin-Endes and Adam Rawlings have worked together for over a decade and can to some degree tailor interviews to include the special interest of the Fellow. For example, we are interested in areas of food security, improving organic food production, creating quality leisure greenspaces, and advocating for art. We have completed five significant community murals and are interested in moving into the area of public sculptures and installations in areas that are void of them. We are also interested in better understanding the 'social determinants of health'.

Please see our website, Instagram, Facebook, and NHS blog for more information on the work of our non-profit organization.

The Fellow will interact daily utilizing a hybrid format of working at NHS Offices located at 333 Sherman Avenue, remote work, and working in the community.

We expect that there will be a 'positive movement' with four residents/resident-driven groups which will include the important element of relationship building. We are ultimately looking for ways for residents to self-organize and be able to work with volunteers. And yes- we are working with a group to create an app for that to help everyone!

List specific skills/experience required for the project

Required:

- Passion for social justice, community development, and environmental stewardship
- Sincere desire to engage and work with low-income individuals and communities
- Flexibility, initiative, and creativity
- Excellent interpersonal, verbal, and writing skills and attention to detail.

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

A car is not required. We have a dedicated space to store one's bicycles at our office campus. If a car is used mileage reimbursement is provided at the current rate of \$.50 cents per mile.

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.

- 2003: Developed a Business Plan for our organization (and presented it to NHS staff and Board of Directors); helped create an expanded website for our organization
- 2008: Coordinated our strategic planning process; created the written Strategic Plan that would guide our activities from 2008-2013; researched housing economic trends to update our Business Plan
- 2010: Worked alongside our Community Organizing team to coordinate neighborhood events and lay the groundwork for future community initiatives
- 2012: Compiled the organization's Annual Report; surveyed targeted neighborhoods using the Success Measures Survey created by NeighborWorks® America; created a final analysis of survey data
- 2013: Worked to strengthen NHS' relations with faith-based communities in and around our targeted neighborhoods
- 2015: Developed a sustainability report that identified NHS' "green" accomplishments of the last year and target outcomes for NHS in 2015-16
- 2016: Conducted the 2016 Community Impact Measurement Survey, our three-year follow-up to the Success Measures Survey undertaken in 2012; provided social media marketing support for HOC Realty, one of NHS' related organizations.
- 2017: Supported the West River Water Festival and the Newhallville Promise Land Festival, and assisted resident leaders in a clean street/reduced trash initiative of painting four plastic garbage barrels with young residents and teenagers.
- 2018: Worked with Elm City Cycling to teach bike safety to youth in Newhallville, helped paint the Women's Empowerment Mural, researched and wrote for our five-year Strategic Planning Document, published a weekly newsletter that summarized recent CB&O activities
- 2019: Completed report on, Fighting Blight in Dwight – Protecting Communities and Homes through Historic Preservation.

-2020: worked remotely with residents to create a storytelling initiative in the Newhallville neighborhood performing in-depth interviews, with residents of residents, and cataloging the interviews online.

- NHS has a long history of partnering with university students in our community development projects. All Yale President's Public Service Fellows have served our organization extremely well, assisting us in many different domains including community organizing, written correspondence, and research. Based on the evaluations and comments we have received, each of the students has found the experience of working with NHS to be very worthwhile. We aim to accommodate the interests of the Yale President's Public Service Fellow by adapting and tailoring work assignments to maximize their value to the student while helping us accomplish our mission of revitalizing New Haven's neighborhoods. In this way, we are able to create a summer program that will not only meet the needs and aspirations of the student but will also provide a substantive benefit to our organization.