

Yale University

President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2024

Organization information

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

PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

<i>Name</i>	Tina Paolillo
<i>Title</i>	Program Director
<i>Cell phone number</i>	203-490-4690
<i>E-mail address</i>	tpaolillo@deskct.org

What is the best way for prospective student applicants to contact you with questions about your proposal?

- Send an e-mail with questions

Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 28, 2024 through Friday, August 9, 2024)

May 28 – August 9, 2024

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

Yes. The nature of the work the Fellow will be doing allows for flexibility in the start and end dates. Also, as of right now, there are no dates we can say the prospective Fellow must work.

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

Tuesday: 12:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Wednesday and Thursday: 10:30 am - 6:30 pm

Friday and Saturday: 11:30 - 7:00 pm

If a hybrid schedule is offered at your site, please describe:

N/A

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.

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.

Approach:

Low-Barrier. We aim to make all services as accessible as possible, reducing hurdles and barriers, like eligibility requirements, paperwork, waiting lists, and questions, as best we can.

Person-Centered. We aim to put the individuals we serve - their needs, their goals, their aspirations, and their dignity at the focal point of our strategy in planning, executing, and improving all services, with particular attention to the wholeness and uniqueness of each individual's experience.

Harm Reduction. We aim to deploy strategies that can reduce negative consequences.

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. Oversee the Friday & Saturday evening Yale Community Kitchen program in coordination with DESK staff.

2. Assist with coordinating the distribution of meals as part of our nightly dinner program.
3. Assist with coordinating and executing DESK's weekly food pantry.
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.

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 guests who access our basic needs/clothing closet. Critically, the PPSF will gain valuable leadership experience by coordinating the Friday and Saturday Yale Community Kitchen program. 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 any 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

We can be fairly flexible on some of the hours, but the candidate **MUST** be available on Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings. 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 and/or 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 five 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.