

Yale University President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2020

Fellows will work remotely

- Organization: **All Our Kin**
- Full street address of organization: **414A Chapel Street, 1st floor, New Haven, CT 06511**
- Website: **www.allourkin.org**
- Name and title of person who will be the Fellow's direct supervisor (*the supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis*): **Shaniece Conyers, Education & Operations Coordinator; Darrah Sipe, Early Head Start Director**
- Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor: **203-646-6644**
shaniece@allourkin.org ; darrah@allourking.org
- Placement dates (*8-11 weeks between Tuesday, June 1 and Friday, August 13, 2021*):
 - **8-11 weeks any time between June 1 and August 13, 2021**
- Are placement dates flexible? Are you able to accommodate a Fellow working in a different time zone? **Yes; Fellow may complete the 8-11 weeks any time between June 1 and August 13, 2021. East coast time.**
- Proposed work schedule (*placements should be equivalent to full-time and not more than 37.5 hours/week*): **Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (flexible; schedule will be equivalent to 37.5 hours/week)**

Placement Description

- Organization description (*mission statement, population served. 150 words or less.*): **All Our Kin invests in early childhood educators (represented mostly by women of color) who are dedicated to the well-being of children in their communities, taking an innovative approach to solving the crisis in child care and early learning that results from an acute lack of quality, affordable care for infants and toddlers across the nation. All Our Kin provides the training, resources, and support that these women need to become early childhood professionals and create enriching child care programs in home-based settings.**

Through our programs, family child care providers succeed as business owners; working parents find stable, high-quality care for their children; and children gain an educational foundation that lays the groundwork for achievement in school and beyond. We serve a network of over 400 family child care professionals who ensure that more than 2,400 young children are safe, loved, and learning. We have offices in New Haven, Bridgeport, and Stamford, and the Bronx.

- Describe the work that the PPSF Fellow would be conducting remotely (*no more than two pages*):

All Our Kin partners with home-based childcare providers to deliver Early Head Start services to eligible infants and toddlers, who receive free, high-quality child care and comprehensive wraparound support for both the children and their families. The PPSF will work to strengthen and support our program's family partnership initiatives (event-planning, recruitment, case management supports, enrollment, and more) – all while centering equity, inclusion and justice.

The President's Public Service Fellow will work closely with All Our Kin's Early Head Start team to strengthen family engagement initiatives so that families in the program feel welcomed as members of a strong, active, and supportive community.

Our Early Head Start program provides free or low-cost, quality child care for eligible infants and toddlers residing in New Haven, West Haven, and Hamden. We connect families to licensed family child care programs that are culturally diverse and offer flexible, full-day, full-year programming. In addition, our staff connects enrolled children, families, and child care providers to a plethora of comprehensive supports and services, which result in critical benefits to each group. These include:

Benefits to Children:

- **Access to high-quality care in an engaging and loving environment**
- **Close monitoring of health and wellbeing as well as social, behavioral, physical, emotional, and cognitive development**
- **Partnerships with local early intervention programs, such as CT Birth to Three, to serve infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities**

Benefits to Families:

- **Collaboration between staff and families to support children's ongoing development and learning**
- **Assistance obtaining physical, mental, and oral health services for children**
- **Connections to housing, food, and income supports**
- **Opportunities to build community and develop leadership skills**
- **Individualized support from a Family Advocate**

Benefits to Child Care Providers:

- **Pay at rates that are higher, and fairer, than those currently available through the state's child care subsidy program**
- **Materials, supplies, and quality enhancement funds**
- **Individualized professional development plans and access to regular learning opportunities**
- **Program visits, mentoring, and ongoing support from nurse consultants, educational coaches, and other Early Head Start team members**

Family engagement is a critical component of Early Head Start, as outlined in the Head Start Program Performance Standards. Many of the families in our program come to us with few material resources or emotional supports available to them. In addition to offering the benefits of stable, affordable child care, we also aim to provide families with opportunities to learn and connect as a community. The contributions of the President's Public Service Fellow will be crucial in helping All Our Kin strengthen its family engagement initiatives.

A successful Fellow will:

- **Support planning for events, trainings and 1-on-1 supports for Early Head Start families**
- **Assist in recruiting new families to the program/ Manage the Company's Facebook page under the direction of the Education Coordinator.**
- **Strengthen existing community partnerships and actively build new partnerships to expand our offering of supports and services**
- **Organize any drop offs to the educators' homes**

- **Review and update program materials**
- **Have knowledge of virtual video platforms**

The Fellow will have a great deal of flexibility and creativity related to designing new family engagement initiatives and opportunities. We welcome a Fellow who is a problem solver and willing to take initiative. The goal is improving the experiences of families in our Early Head Start program.

By the conclusion of the Fellowship, the Fellow will have enhanced the quality and quantity of family support and services offered through All Our Kin's Early Head Start program, and strengthened processes to manage logistics for events and donation drives. In the process, we are confident that the Fellow will gain an in-depth understanding of the issues faced by low-income families in the New Haven area; learn how to engage these issues in meaningful ways; build strong relationships with Early Head Start staff as well as the children, families, and child care providers served; and experience the excitement and challenges that come with working in a growing non-profit that strives for high quality and high impact.

- **List specific skills/experience required for this work:**
 - Basic tech skills**
 - Self-motivated**
 - Open and eager to listen and learn**
 - Strong written and verbal communication skills**
 - Strong organizational skills**
 - Cultural curiosity and humility**
 - Respect for Early Head Start children, families, and family child care providers**
 - Commitment to social justice and early childhood education**
 - Bilingual English/Spanish preferred but not required**
- **Equipment/resources you will provide to help Fellow conduct work:**

A laptop computer if needed.