

Yale University President's Public Service Fellowship
Summer 2021

Proposal for Fellow working remotely for organization

- Organization:

Fair Haven Community Health Care

- Full street address of organization:

**374 Grand Avenue
New Haven, CT 06513**

- Website:

fhchc.org

- Name and title of person who will be the Fellow's direct supervisor:

**Benjamin Oldfield, MD MHS
Chief Medical Officer**

- Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor:

**Phone: 203-777-7411
Email: b.oldfield@fhchc.org**

- Placement dates:

Monday, June 7th through Friday, August 13th, 2021.

- Are placement dates flexible? Are you able to accommodate a Fellow working in a different time zone?

Placement dates are certainly flexible. We would prefer to work with a fellow who will be in Eastern Time Zone and, if restrictions are lifted by the University, can spend roughly half their time on-site with us.

- Proposed 37.5 hour per week work schedule:

**Monday 9am-5pm
Tuesday 9am-5pm
Wednesday 8:30am-5pm
Thursday 9am-5pm
Friday 9am-2:30pm**

- Organization description:

Fair Haven Community Health Care is a federally qualified health center that serves a population of approximately 27,000 individuals, the vast majority of whom are persons of color and low-income, with the goal of providing comprehensive care that is culturally responsive and promotes health equity.

- Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting:

Fair Haven Community Health Care is committed to addressing the medical needs and the social needs of its patient population. This project will involve collecting and analyzing data on the social determinants of health—like food insecurity and housing instability—among our patient population to inform our efforts to address the social and structural barriers our patients face in achieving their greatest possible health.

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

Fair Haven Community Health Care in October 2020 formed a consortium with Yale primary care practices to care for a total of roughly 18,000 pediatric patients in the New Haven area. Starting with the formation of this consortium, we have begun to systematically collect data on the social determinants of health—like food insecurity and housing insecurity—on all children at their well-child checks (e.g. their yearly physicals). This is the first time that the social determinants of health have been measured in children across the city of New Haven in a standardized fashion and in a clinical database that links these determinants to health outcomes.

We anticipate having social determinants of health data from several thousand children and their families by the summer of 2021, and would like the PPSF fellow to assist in analyzing this data and identifying how the social determinants of health are distributed by race/ethnic groups, age, zip code, and other demographic factors.

Working closely with our Chief Medical Officer, our Director of Care Coordination and Integrated Support Programs, and our teams of doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, and clinical assistants, this project would have two aims.

First, the PPSF fellow would identify the distribution of the social determinants of health among children to better understand how these factors are unequally distributed in greater New Haven, with disparities driven by social hierarchies such as those imposed by racism, neighborhood poverty, and other demographics.

Second, the PPSF fellow would characterize the relationship between the social determinants of health with health outcomes such as high-utilization of the emergency department, no-shows to office visits, and disease severity.

If the University has lifted the ban on in-person work prior to the dates of the fellowship, the fellow would also directly collect social determinants data at various visits and by telephone with particularly vulnerable families in the New Haven area. The fellow would also have the opportunity to shadow clinicians and care coordinators at the clinic.

At the completion of the project, the PPSF fellow would present their findings to the clinic staff and assist in the preparation of a poster or manuscript for publication. These findings would directly inform how our care coordination department performs outreach to vulnerable groups to help individuals in these groups achieve their greatest potential health in order to promote health equity in greater New Haven.

- List specific skills/experience required for this work:

Experience with data management and data analysis is required. Excellent communication—in both verbal and written forms—is highly desirable for this role. Prior experience working with vulnerable individuals and families living in poverty is emphasized. A majority of our patient population prefers to receive care in Spanish, so bilingual (English and Spanish) status is preferred.

- Equipment/resources you will provide to help Fellow conduct work:

The fellow would be given a space to work, access to a de-identified database, and (if bans are lifted) a manner to interact and work with patients and families in a safe manner. The provider would also have access to clinicians if she/he would like to shadow them to learn about the work that goes into providing comprehensive medical care in a community-based setting.

- Briefly describe the 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.

The summer of 2019, we hosted Meghan Casey, who led an interview project with families of children seeking care in our health center. She interviewed some 200 individuals during the summer and her work culminated with a publication on which she was a co-author, published in the journal *Population Health Management*. Ms. Casey has continued her affiliation with us and continues to assist in a project related to the positive impacts of nature—walks, exploration, and outdoor fellowship—on low-income families.
