

Yale University President's Public Service Fellowship Summer 2021

Proposal for Fellow working remotely for organization

- Organization: Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services
- Full street address of organization: 235 Nicoll Street, New Haven CT 06511
- Website: irisct.org
- Name and title of person who will be the Fellow's direct supervisor:

Bahati Kanyamanza, Manager of Youth Program and Education Advocacy

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

802-451-6003, bkanyamanza@irisct.org

- Placement dates:

June 1 - August 13, 2021

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

The Fellow could start at a slightly later date if possible. We could accommodate a Fellow working in a different time zone as long as the Fellow can be available during the summer program's working hours (8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST)

- Proposed 37.5 hour per week work schedule:

Approximately 25 hours/week, with the opportunity for more hours if desired.

- Organization description:

The mission of IRIS- Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services, is to help refugees establish new lives, regain hope, and contribute to the vitality of Connecticut's communities. IRIS empowers refugees—people who fled their home countries due to persecution— and immigrants to become self-sufficient and integrate in their new communities. IRIS provides newly arriving refugees with furnished housing, food, clothing, help starting jobs, and case management. IRIS enables immigrants to navigate the Connecticut public school system, the American workplace, and the healthcare system. IRIS also offers English-language classes; youth programs; legal assistance to help refugees apply for green cards and citizenship and to reunite with family members; healthcare coordination; and programs to promote emotional wellness.

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

The 2021 Fellow's project would be to work with IRIS's Education and Youth Services Department to assist with our annual Summer Learning Program - a seven-week long program of enrichment and academic support for recently-arrived K-12 refugee and immigrant students.

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

The 2021 Fellow's project would be to facilitate refugee and other immigrant families' access to summer enrichment programs for youth in New Haven. The Fellow would be working with the IRIS Education and Youth Services Department, which works intensively with newcomer families to improve students' academic performance and social adjustment to schools. Refugee and other immigrant children learning English and still adjusting to American culture need wrap-around services and year-round support. Summer programming is critical for newcomers' education and integration into the U.S. school system. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the 2021 Summer Learning Program may end up being attenuated, re-organized, or conducted through remote-learning platforms - regardless, there is much work that can be done remotely.

The first phase of the fellowship would focus on reaching out to IRIS client families to enroll eligible students into the Summer Learning Program and help families explore other local summer enrichment opportunities. This will require the Fellow to use existing spreadsheets to make calls and explain relevant program details to eligible families, as well as track and organize enrollment data in Google Sheets. The Fellow may be asked to enlist the services of IRIS interpreters when needed. In this first phase of work, the Fellow may also be asked to reach out to local organizations and individuals to organize field trips and visitors to engage the students in educational enrichment activities (if the SLP is being conducted in-person), or to organize remote learning and enrichment activities (if the SLP is held remotely).

In addition to this direct-service work with refugee and immigrant families to facilitate access to summer programs, the Fellow would assist the IRIS Education and Youth Services team with the planning and implementation of the Summer Learning Program. This may include assistance with brainstorming, researching, and helping to implement remote learning and enrichment experiences if needed.

During the program itself, the Fellow may be asked to remotely track and organize data associated with student attendance, engagement with learning and enrichment opportunities, and completion of academic work and other tasks. The Fellow may also be asked to communicate remotely with families to share information pertinent to the Summer Learning Program or help trouble-shoot if families are having difficulty accessing remote learning opportunities. The Fellow may also have opportunities to work directly with students as a remote tutor or enrichment facilitator.

At the end of the IRIS Summer Learning Program, the Fellow may be asked to write a reflection piece that assesses how the program functioned: i.e., what worked well, what aspects could be improved, and suggestions for how to do so. The Fellow may also be encouraged to contribute to an on-going

research project to identify best practices to address the challenges of educating refugee and immigrant students.

Outcomes for the Fellow's work will be as follows. 1) Refugee and other immigrant youth (ages 5-17) who want to participate in summer enrichment programs are registered for and begin summer programs. 2) The families of students enrolled in the IRIS Summer Learning Program (SLP) are oriented and have the resources they need to access the program, remotely or in-person 3) The Fellow will produce written materials that will serve as a resource for IRIS Education and Youth Services and others who work with immigrant youth to improve their services. By achieving these outcomes, the Fellow will be contributing to the overarching objectives of IRIS Education and Youth Services for refugee and immigrant youth: to improve the level of English-language proficiency, boost academic performance, ensure school attendance, improve cultural adjustment, foster school participation and leadership, and to help parents of refugee and immigrant students become involved in all aspects of their children's education.

- List specific skills/experience required for this work:

Excellent intercultural communication skills

- Versatility and a willingness to help where help is needed.
- Willingness to take initiative in meeting and developing rapport with refugees.
- Ability to work independently (after extensive training) and manage time effectively.
- Proficiency with google sheets, docs, and slides
- Ability to practice creative problem solving.
- Experience working with people from non-Western cultures
- Interest in or knowledge of youth education
- Proficiency in a language spoken by refugee clients (Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Tigrinya, Kiswahili, etc.) is a plus, but not a requirement
- Solid understanding of, and access to, video conferencing platforms such as Zoom, Skype, Google Hangouts, Facebook Messenger, Discord, and others.
- Solid understanding of, and access to, text-based applications such as Whatsapp, WeChat, Facebook Messenger, and others.

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

- Parking and mileage reimbursement is available if necessary.
 - If needed, Fellows will be provided with accounts to videoconferencing platforms such as Zoom.
 - Fellow will be provided an IRIS email account and phone number.
- 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.

Yale PPSF Fellows have helped to facilitate IRIS's Summer Learning Program for many years running and have been instrumental in the successful delivery of this vital annual undertaking.