

Yale University President's Public Service Fellowship Summer 2021

Proposal for Fellow working remotely for organization

- Organization: Community Place-making Engagement Network (CPEN)
- Full street address of organization: 157 Church St., 19th Floor
- Website: www.cpeninc.org
- Name and title of person who will be the Fellow's direct supervisor (*the supervisor must be available for Fellow to contact throughout the week*): Doreen Abubakar
- Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor: Phone: 203-415-3646

Email: doreenabubakar@gmail.com

- Placement dates (*8-11 weeks between Tuesday, June 1 and Friday, August 13, 2021*):
- Are placement dates flexible? Are you able to accommodate a Fellow working in a different time zone? Yes
- Proposed 37.5 hour per week work schedule:
- Organization description (*mission statement, population served. 150 words or less.*):

CPEN's mission is to engage and inspire people in underserved neighborhoods like Newhallville to enhance their community assets--people, places, and things--to improve wellbeing, health, and happiness. Our vision is that communities that have been disadvantaged by racial inequities and disparities will have what they need to thrive. We believe that building a supportive network to increase access, awareness, and connection to economic, health, environmental, and other opportunities will help residents thrive and become self-sustaining.

Newhallville was once a thriving working-class community. The loss of its major employer during the 1980s set the area into decline, creating a post-industrial, low-income neighborhood, now home to 7000 residents, 98.8% residential, with no gathering places. CPEN has already completed several projects to improve residents' wellbeing, including the Learning Corridor on the Farmington Canal, with family-oriented educational programming and wellness activities.

- **Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting (50 words or less. This will be used as your organization's project description summary on the PPSF website, so be succinct):**
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The Fellow will design and conduct a neighborhood wellbeing survey that provides a baseline measurement of community wellness and that can be used to measure engagement in and impact of CPEN activities. Based on the findings, the Fellow will identify and connect with service providers and support programs for the indicated needs.

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

Data Haven conducted a statewide, regional, and neighborhood Community Well-Being Adult Survey in 2016 and again in 2019 that included only a small number of Newhallville residents. From the standpoint of CPEN, the findings did not accurately reflect the state of poverty and health challenges in the neighborhood.

The first phase of the PPSF project will be to design and conduct a more targeted, Newhallville-specific, community-participatory survey, in light of the Eight Dimensions of Wellness framework that is one of our organizational pillars—occupational, physical, intellectual, environmental, emotional, financial, social, spiritual—with a larger sample of residents and more detailed and tailored questions. This survey would provide a baseline and become an ongoing instrument for regular evaluation of progress over time.

Using the survey findings, the second phase of the project will be to work with CPEN leadership to identify service providers and support programs that meet the community's needs in the eight dimensions—specialized services and programs that are not consistently available anywhere in the neighborhood. The Fellow will help build relationships with these providers and organizations with the end-products of the engagement being 1) infrastructure and resources for CPEN to draw on in creating wellness-promoting activities, events, training, and neighborhood development; and 2) a database of providers and programs for neighborhood residents that CPEN can use to create a directory that will show how to access the providers' services.

- **List specific skills/experience required for this work:**
 - Research skills
 - Ability to develop research tools – surveys, interviews, etc.
 - Ability to network comfortably with many different people
 - Thinking creatively about what types of partners can support each of the eight dimensions
- **Equipment/resources you will provide to help Fellow conduct work (must include access to a business e-mail and phone number):** E-mail address will be provided.
- **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.**

During trail events we have engaged with 2 students who volunteered in our planting projects.
