



Princeton
Internships in
Civic
Service

PICS 2010 Internship Description

Organization Name: Supportive Housing Network of New York

Internship Location: 247 West 37th Street, New York, NY 10018

Required Dates: Yes No If yes, internship must start: on or before June 7th.

Housing Will Be Available to Intern: Yes No If yes, housing will be free: or housing will cost the student:

Expected working schedule for this internship:

Start Time: 9:00 am End Time: 5:00 pm
Lunch break: 45 minutes (duration) (specific time, if applicable)

Additional Information, if necessary:

(Please indicate if any of the preparation work will take place outside of the regular work schedule)

Organization Description

Please describe your organization briefly, including mission statement, activities, size etc. Please also explain the benefit that will be derived by your organization by sponsoring a Princeton intern.

The Supportive Housing Network of New York (the Network) is a statewide membership based organization that advocates for low-income housing tied to services for formerly homeless, disabled and at-risk families and individuals. We represent the non-profit housing developers and social service providers that build and operate supportive housing apartments across New York State. Our members provide homes that enable men, women and children to stabilize and rebuild their lives, making it possible for those who have known loss, trauma, uncertainty and poverty to experience community, self-reliance, dignity and hope. They house and provide services – such as case management, job training, medication management, etc. – to people living with HIV/AIDS, people with mental illness, youth aging out of foster care, homeless veterans, survivors of domestic violence, and other vulnerable populations.

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The Network currently has eight full-time staff, seven in our New York City office and one in our satellite office in Albany. Our primary objectives are to 1) advocate at the federal, state and local level for policies and programs that strengthen and expand supportive housing opportunities for homeless and at-risk New Yorkers, and 2) provide our members with the training and technical assistance they need to develop and operate quality, affordable housing. We spend our days conducting research and policy analysis, developing and disseminating public education materials, providing counsel to our members and negotiating with our government partners in Albany, Washington and New York City.

Hosting Princeton Interns helps the Network continue or jumpstart our larger research and policy initiatives. Unfortunately, given the state of the economy, Network staff has had to spend a great deal of time over the last year responding to budget crises. Having an intern to focus on our longer term projects while the rest of us jump in and out of emergency advocacy to keep supportive housing programs from being cut, helps maintain the momentum on our very important, but not as time-sensitive, projects.

Internship Description

Describe in detail the work or project will do; please be as specific as possible. Please also explain the benefit that a student will obtain by interning with your organization.

The Princeton Intern would work on a variety of policy and advocacy projects as well as participate in two big conferences and a lobby day in Washington DC.

The first conference is the Network's annual Supportive Housing Conference, a one-day conference in June that brings in over 1,000 people from around the country to discuss the latest policies, trends, and innovative practices in the industry. The other conference is the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference in Washington DC that culminates in a Congressional lobby day that the PICS intern helps to organize, develop materials for and participate in.

Throughout the summer the intern will help the policy staff produce materials and organize advocacy efforts around both federal and local budget and policy priorities. For example, s/he might help draft testimony, summarize legislation, or organize members to call or email their representatives on important legislation. S/he will also have the opportunity to write articles for our newsletter attend public hearings and represent the Network at various events and/or meetings.

The PICS intern would also join the team focusing on the Network's *Development Barrier Initiative*; a three year initiative to reduce the time it's taking to build supportive housing in New York. The Network spends a great deal of time ensuring that there is sufficient funding to house

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homeless and low-income individuals and families but that's all for naught if we can't get the buildings built. Our members are facing record levels of community resistance, bureaucratic delays, ill-conceived regulations and poor government planning. This is particularly troublesome given that we're also at record levels of homelessness. It is our hope that the *Development Barrier Initiative* will help ease these issues so that we can house people as fast as possible. The specific projects that the PICS intern would assist us with include:

- Helping create a *Siting Toolkit*, a compendium of research, communication strategy and sample marketing materials, that will help supportive housing providers combat the unfortunate misinformation and stigma sometimes associated with supportive housing and to ensure that supportive housing providers are responsive to the communities in which they build.
- Organizing and participating in meetings with key stakeholders from the government and non-profit sector to help strategize solutions to some of the various development barriers.
- Researching and integrating development information into the Network's database so that the Network can track the success of the initiative.

The Network is a small but dedicated and dynamic organization. Most of our projects are team efforts and the interns become a part of the team as soon as they set foot in the door. S/he will learn an incredible amount about housing and homeless policies, but the biggest opportunity working with the Network is to see first hand how policy gets made.

Intern Qualifications

Describe any particular skills, background, or qualities you are seeking in an intern.

The ideal intern would possess strong analytical, communication and writing skills. S/he should be proficient in Word with at least some experience in Excel and PowerPoint. Most importantly, we are looking for a candidate that shows a true commitment to learning more about, and helping to shape, homelessness and low-income housing policy at the federal, state and local level. Personal characteristics should include flexibility, willingness to work as a member of a team, attention to detail, ability to work independently and to handle several tasks/projects simultaneously.

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